

SPICe Fact Sheet

Duilleagan Fiosrachaidh SPICe

21 September 2022

Scottish Parliament firsts

This Fact Sheet records the first occurrences of a wide range of Scottish Parliament events. Examples include first editions of Scottish Parliament publications and the first Scottish Parliament e-Petition. It does not aim to cover every permutation of first events or to be fully comprehensive in scope, and the wording used to describe 'Parliament firsts' may change over time.

This Fact Sheet is arranged by date with the oldest date first and contains hyperlinks to more information where appropriate.

6 May 1999

First Member declared elected: Tom McCabe, at 23.16

12 May 1999

First edition of the [Business Bulletin](#)

12 May 1999

First [Meeting of the Parliament](#)

12 May 1999

First Member to take oath/affirmation: [Dr Winnie Ewing](#)

12 May 1999

First MSP speech: [Dr Winnie Ewing](#)

12 May 1999

First Point of Order: [Dennis Canavan](#)

12 May 1999

First [vote by secret ballot](#)

12 May 1999

First Presiding Officer to be elected: [Sir David Steel](#)

12 May 1999

First edition of the Minutes of Proceedings SP MOP vol 1 no 1 session 1 12 May 1999 (no longer on website)

12 May 1999

First edition of the [Official Report](#)

13 May 1999

First [electronic vote](#)

13 May 1999

First First Minister to be elected: [Donald Dewar](#)

13 May 1999

First motion lodged: [motion S1M-1 in the name of Alex Fergusson](#)

17 May 1999

First meeting of the Parliamentary Bureau

18 May 1999

First debate on a motion: [S1M-3 on the appointment of Law Officers](#)

18 May 1999

First appointment of [Law Officers](#)

19 May 1999

First appointment of [Scottish Ministers](#) and [junior Scottish Ministers](#)

19 May 1999

First election of members of the [Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body](#)

25 May 1999

First written Parliamentary Question lodged: [S1W-1 by Fergus Ewing](#)

26 May 1999

First [affirmative instruments](#) laid before the Scottish Parliament

31 May 1999

First committee report and Scottish Parliament paper published: [Subordinate Legislation Committee 1st report, 1999, 1st Report on Subordinate Legislation \(SPP 1\)](#)

2 June 1999

First [Decision Time](#)

8 June 1999

First motion on the establishment of committees: [S1M-37 in the name of Tom McCabe](#)

8 June 1999

First Members' Business debate: [S1M-24 in the name of Dr Sylvia Jackson](#)

9 June 1999

First [Ministerial Statement](#)

10 June 1999

First negative statutory instrument laid before the Scottish Parliament: The Scotland Act 1998 (Agency Arrangements) (Specification) Order 1999

14 June 1999

First Public Petition: [PE1 lodged by Cunningburgh and Sandwick United Free Churches of Scotland](#)

16 June 1999

First use of Gaelic in the Chamber – [Maureen MacMillan](#)

17 June 1999

First Question Time: first Parliamentary Question asked and answered orally [S1O-44 by George Lyon](#)

22 June 1999

First video conference: pupils from Kirkwall Grammar school spoke with Jim Wallace

1 July 1999

Official opening of the Scottish Parliament

8 July 1999

First Scottish Executive document laid before the Scottish Parliament: Land Reform, Proposals for Legislation (SE/1999/1)

12 July 1999

First formal request for an emergency recall under Rule 2.2.8: SNP request to discuss Kaverne was not granted

19 August 1999

First proposed Members' Bill: Proposed Debtors (Amendment) Bill, lodged by Tommy Sheridan

31 August 1999

First Emergency Bill/Executive Bill introduced: by Jim Wallace [SP Bill 1 Mental Health \(Public Safety and Appeals\) \(Scotland\) Bill \[as introduced\]](#)

8 September 1999

First Emergency Bill/Executive Bill passed: introduced by Jim Wallace [SP Bill 1 Mental Health \(Public Safety and Appeals\) \(Scotland\) Bill \[as passed\]](#)

13 September 1999

First Bill to receive Royal Assent and become Act of the Scottish Parliament: [Mental Health \(Public Safety and Appeals\) \(Scotland\) Act 1999 asp 1](#)

15 September 1999

First Scottish Parliament Education Service visit: Girvan Academy

16 September 1999

First emergency motion: [S1M-158 in the name of Lord James Douglas-Hamilton](#)

16 September 1999

First Gaelic speech made in the Chamber: [John Farquhar Munro](#)

24 September 1999

First Member's Bill introduced: by Tommy Sheridan [SP Bill 3 Abolition of Poindings and Warrant Sales Bill \[as introduced\]](#)

8 October 1999

First use of the oath for witnesses before a committee: [Standards Committee](#)

20 October 1999

First committee to meet outside Edinburgh: [Enterprise and Lifelong Learning Committee met in Inverness](#)

27 October 1999

First Time for Reflection: [Reverend Dr Graham K Blount, Action of Churches Together in Scotland \(ACTS\)](#)

15 November 1999

First Public Petitions Committee e-Petition raised: [Our seas deserve a vote](#)

21 December 1999

First resignation: Ian Welsh (Lab), constituency MSP for Ayr

13 January 2000

First First Minister's Question Time: [first question S1F-1 by Alex Salmond](#)

16 February 2000

First use of sign language in the Chamber: [debate on S1M-529 in the name of Dr Winnie Ewing](#)

29 February 2000

First petitioner to appear as a witness before a committee: [Jim McPhie, Shettleston Traders Association, appeared before the Public Petitions Committee](#)

2 March 2000

First debate in Gaelic at a Meeting of the Parliament: [S1M-607 in the name of Alasdair Morrison](#)

16 March 2000

First by-election: Ayr constituency

16 March 2000

First MSP elected as a result of a by-election: John Scott (Con)

22 March 2000

First [urgent Ministerial Statement](#)

5 April 2000

First time the Presiding Officer opened a debate in the Parliament: [S1M-720 in the name of Sir David Steel on behalf of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body](#)

27 April 2000

First debate in a Meeting of the Parliament on a Members' Bill: [Abolition of Poidings and Warrant Sales Bill: Stage 1, introduced by Tommy Sheridan](#)

27 April 2000

First Executive amendment to be withdrawn: amendment 772.1 by Jim Wallace

3 May 2000

First official state visit from overseas: His Excellency the President of Malawi Dr Bakili Muluzi

17 May 2000

First time the Parliament met outside Edinburgh: [in Glasgow](#)

25 May 2000

First emergency question: by Jamie McGrigor on [Caledonian MacBrayne](#)

28 September 2000

First Members' Bill to be passed: introduced by Tavish Scott [SP Bill 11 Sea Fisheries \(Shellfish\) Amendment \(Scotland\) Bill \[as introduced\]](#)

13 October 2000

First motion of condolence: [in remembrance of Donald Dewar](#) who died on 11 October 2000, in the name of Jim Wallace

7 December 2000

First Executive Bill to be withdrawn: [SP Bill 21 Education \(Graduate Endowment and Student Support\) \(Scotland\) Bill \[as introduced\]](#)

25 January 2001

First emergency statement taken in the Chamber: [statement by Tom McCabe](#)

8 March 2001

First use of a casting vote by the Presiding Officer: [vote on S1M-1725 in the name of Jamie McGrigor on Scotland's fishing industry](#)

8 March 2001

First Executive defeat: [S1M-1725.2 in the name of Rhona Brankin to amend motion S1M-1725 in the name of Jamie McGrigor on Scotland's fishing industry](#)

9 March 2001

First Ministerial resignation on a policy issue: Tavish Scott resigns as Deputy Minister for Parliament

4 June 2001

First Committee Bill introduced: by Alasdair Morgan on behalf of Justice 1 Committee [SP Bill 30 Protection from Abuse \(Scotland\) Bill \[as introduced\]](#)

14 June 2001

First Member's Bill to be withdrawn: introduced by Robert Brown [SP Bill 13 Family Homes and Homelessness \(Scotland\) Bill \[as introduced\]](#)

11 July 2001

First Members Bill when the lead committee recommended the general principles of the Bill should not be agreed to: [Stage 1 Report on the Protection of Wild Mammals \(Scotland\) Bill](#)

10 August 2001

First regional MSP resignation: Nick Johnston (Con)

12 September 2001

First draft negative instrument to be laid before the Parliament: the draft Holyrood Park Amendment Regulations 2001 (laid on 12 September 2001; subject to approval until 2 November 2001)

4 October 2001

First Committee Bill passed: introduced by Alasdair Morgan on behalf of Justice 1 Committee [SP Bill 30 Protection from Abuse \(Scotland\) Bill \[as passed\]](#)

22 October 2001

First Westminster MPs to appear before a Scottish Parliament Committee: Angus Robertson MP (Scottish National Party) and Richard Spring MP (Conservative and Unionist Party) appeared before the [European Committee](#)

24 October 2001

First time a [Legislative Consent Memorandum](#) has been lodged for an entire Bill rather than a clause of a Bill

[Proceeds of Crime Bill](#): “That the Parliament endorses the principles of the Proceeds of Crime Bill and agrees that the provisions in the Bill that relate to devolved matters should be considered by the UK Parliament.”

5 November 2001

First UK Minister to appear before a Scottish Parliament Committee: Peter Hain MP, UK Minister for Europe, appeared before the [European Committee](#)

8 November 2001

First First Minister resignation: Henry McLeish resigned as Scotland’s First Minister

8 November 2001

First personal statement: by [Henry McLeish](#)

28 November 2001

First woman and the first non-Advocate to hold the post of Solicitor General: [Elish Angiolini](#)

4 December 2001

First petition referred to the Petitions Committee of European Parliament for further consideration: [PE269 by Mr James Nixon on the procedures governing the employment of teachers in denominational schools in Scotland](#)

7 February 2002

First Bill to fall: [SP Bill 32 Public Appointments \(Parliamentary Approval\) \(Scotland\) Bill \[as introduced\]](#)

7 March 2002

First Bill Committee established: [Scottish Parliamentary Standards Commissioner Bill Committee](#)

12 March 2002

First Member of another devolved administration to give evidence to a Scottish Parliament Committee: Roy Beggs JNR MLA and Francie Molloy MLA (both members of Finance and Personnel Committee, Northern Ireland Assembly) gave evidence to the [Finance Committee’s inquiry into Public Private Partnerships/Private Finance Initiative](#)

27 June 2002

First Private Bill introduced to the Parliament: by Offshore Energy Resources Limited and Solway Offshore Limited [SP Bill 59 Robin Rigg Offshore Wind Farm \(Navigation and Fishing\) \(Scotland\) Bill \[as introduced\]](#)

3 October 2002

First Private Bill Committee established: [Robin Rigg Offshore Wind Farm \(Navigation and Fishing\) \(Scotland\) Bill Committee](#)

27 November 2002

First Consolidation Bill introduced to the Parliament: by Colin Boyd [SP Bill 70 Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries \(Consolidation\) \(Scotland\) Bill](#) [as introduced]

7 May 2003

First MSP to take the oath/affirmation in Gaelic:

[Rob Gibson](#)

15 May 2003

First female Member to be nominated for the post of First Minister: [Margo MacDonald](#)

11 September 2003

First [First Minister's Question Time](#) held at 12.00 with 30 minute duration

24 September 2003

First [Time for Reflection](#) delivered in Gaelic

11 March 2004

First themed [Question Time](#)

16 April 2004

First online e-Petition received in Gaelic: [Làithean-saora sgoiltean na hAlba / Scottish school holidays](#)

20 May 2004

First MSP ordered by the Presiding Officer to leave a plenary meeting: [Carolyn Leckie](#)

2 June 2004

First time there is [no resolution at the end of a plenary debate](#) – neither the motion nor any of the amendments carried

7 September 2004

First [Meeting of the Parliament](#) in the Holyrood Parliament Building

7 September 2004

First [Time for Reflection](#) in the Holyrood Parliament Building

7 September 2004

First MSP speech in the Holyrood Parliament Building: [Jack McConnell, First Minister](#)

7 September 2004

First Ministerial Statement in the Holyrood Parliament Building: [Jack McConnell, First Minister, on the subject of the Scottish Executive's Programme](#)

7 September 2004

First [Decision Time](#) in the Holyrood Parliament Building

7-8 September 2004

First Members' Business debate to extend over 2 days: S2M-1578, in the name of Duncan McNeil ([7 September 2004](#) and [8 September 2004](#))

8 September 2004

First Question Time: first Parliamentary Question asked and answered orally in the Holyrood Parliament Building [S2F-997 by Nicola Sturgeon](#)

9 September 2004

First meeting of a committee in the Holyrood Parliament Building: [Finance Committee](#) met in Committee Room 2

9 September 2004

First MSP to represent the independent and single member parties on the Parliamentary Bureau: [Margo MacDonald](#)

7 October 2004

First signature in the commemorative book at the Opening Ceremony of the new Holyrood building by Her Majesty the Queen

12 January 2005

First MSP to be 'sworn in' in the Holyrood Parliament Building: [Andrew Arbuckle](#)

17 January 2005

First meeting in the Holyrood Parliament Building of a House of Commons Select Committee: members of House of Commons [Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee](#) met with members of the Scottish Parliament Environment and Rural Development Committee in Committee Room 2 before taking evidence from representatives of Scotland's fishing community

19 January 2005

First visit by overseas head of state to the Holyrood Parliament Building: Mr Svetozar Marović President of Serbia and Montenegro

24 January 2005

First online web forum since the Parliament moved to Holyrood: Climate Change Forum

26 January 2005

First [SPCB Question Time](#) at 14.15 for 15 minutes: questions about matters concerning the SPCB or Parliament staff

27 January 2005

First first speech in the Holyrood Parliament Building: by [Andrew Arbuckle](#)

11 April 2005

First public debate in the Holyrood Parliament Building, held by the Health Committee: [Reshaping the NHS in Scotland?](#)

20 April 2005

First time Arabic was spoken in the Chamber: [Time for Reflection](#)

20 April 2005

First use of powers to [extend debate beyond the time scheduled](#)

8 June 2005

First [suspension of standing orders](#) to allow Consideration Stage of Private Bill to be omitted

8 June 2005

First use of an obscenity in the Chamber. [Ted Brocklebank](#)

8 July 2005

First Committee of the Scottish Parliament to submit evidence to an inquiry being carried out by a Westminster Committee: [Finance Committee Report SP Paper 405](#)

6 September 2005

First Division Bell to be rung in a [Meeting of the Scottish Parliament](#)

6 October 2005

First time a Bill is referred back to its lead committee at Stage 1 for a further report on the general principles: [St Andrew's Day Bank Holiday \(Scotland\) Bill](#)

3 November 2005

First Division Bell to be rung at [Stage 3 Bill debate](#)

8 December 2005

First UK Bill to be considered under the new legislative consent procedures: [Health Bill \(2005-06\)](#)

23 February 2006

First Scottish Executive Bill not endorsed by a Scottish Parliament Committee at Stage 1: Scottish Commissioner for Human Rights Bill

2 March 2006

First time a [Meeting of the Parliament](#) has been suspended and not reconvened on the same day

19 April 2006

First MSP to take the oath/affirmation in Doric – [Maureen Watt](#)

26 April 2006

First time Stage 3 of a Bill is adjourned: [Interests of Members of the Scottish Parliament Bill](#)

28 June 2006

First Sub Committee established: [Justice 2 Sub Committee](#)

3 September 2006

First time a new parliamentary party has been formed during a parliamentary session ([Solidarity Group](#)) – formed following the departure of 2 MSPs from the Scottish Socialist Party. As a result, the Scottish Socialist Party was no longer entitled to have a representative on the Parliamentary Bureau

21 September 2006

First time a Scottish Parliament Bill has been introduced with provisions that the Presiding Officer has stated to be outwith the legislative competence of the Parliament: [Civil Appeals \(Scotland\) Bill \(Explanatory notes paragraph 53\)](#)

28 September 2006

First time a Scottish Parliament Bill has been introduced that the Presiding Officer has stated to be entirely outwith the legislative competence of the Parliament: [Provision of Rail Passenger Services \(Scotland\) Bill \(Explanatory notes paragraph 50\)](#)

5 October 2006

First woman and the first non-Advocate to hold the post of Lord Advocate: [Elish Angiolini](#)

3 May 2007

First male Scots/Asian and Muslim MSP elected to the Scottish Parliament:

Bashir Ahmad

9 May 2007

First MSP to take the oath/affirmation in Urdu:

[Bashir Ahmad](#)

9 May 2007

First MSP to take the oath/affirmation in Scots:

[Michael Russell](#)

13 December 2007

First Executive Bill when the lead committee recommended the general principles of the Bill be not approved: [Stage 1 Report on the Graduate Endowment Abolition \(Scotland\) Bill](#)

17 January 2008

First [Legislative Consent Motion](#) not moved by the Minister

4 March 2008

First [committee motion](#) to annul a negative instrument agreed to by the committee

18 June 2008

First Executive Bill to fall at Stage 1: [Creative Scotland Bill](#)

28 January 2009

First Bill to fall at Stage 3: [Budget \(Scotland\) \(No.2\) Bill](#)

3 March 2009

First time another devolved assembly held a committee meeting at the Scottish Parliament: The National Assembly for Wales' Petitions Committee

16 November 2009

First Hybrid Bill introduced: by John Swinney [SP Bill 33 Forth Crossing Bill \[as introduced\]](#)

12 January 2010

First First Minister to give evidence to a Westminster Committee: [Rt Hon Alex Salmond gave evidence to the Scottish Affairs Select Committee](#)

1 December 2010

First committee set up to consider only a Legislative Consent Memorandum: [Scotland Bill Committee](#)

5 May 2011

First blind MSP elected: Dennis Robertson

11 May 2011

First female MSP elected as Presiding Officer: [Tricia Marwick](#)

11 May 2011

First MSP to take the oath/affirmation in Italian:

[Marco Biagi](#)

11 May 2011

First MSP to take the oath/affirmation in Scots:

[Michael Russell](#)

22 December 2011

First Legislative Consent Motion that does not provide full legislative consent: [Welfare Reform Bill](#)

22 March 2012

First time electronic tablet devices are allowed to be used as an alternative to paper notes for speaking in the Chamber (correspondence between the Presiding Officer and MSPs)

4 September 2012

First [Chamber sitting](#) on a Tuesday afternoon

4 September 2012

First Topical Questions: first Topical Question asked [S4T-00018](#) by [Siobhan McMahon](#)

6 September 2012

First Muslim Minister appointed: [Humza Yousaf, Minister for External Affairs and International Development](#)

19 September 2012

First simultaneous translation into Polish in the Chamber: [debate on S4M-03061 in the name of Christine Grahame](#)

5 November 2012

First [Parliament Day](#)

13 June 2013

First time the Scottish Government used its power to block a Member's Bill by giving an "indication" in relation to a final proposal – Joe Fitzpatrick, in relation to Neil Findlay's proposed Lobbying Transparency (Scotland) Bill ([Standing orders Rule 9.14.13](#))

25 June 2013

First bill passed allowing the Scottish Parliament to set and collect a proportion of its own revenue: introduced by John Swinney [SP Bill 19 Land and Buildings Transaction Tax \(Scotland\) Bill \[as passed\]](#)

12 September 2013

First time a [First Minister has been questioned by the Scottish Parliament's Conveners' Group](#) on his Government's legislative programme

12 November 2013

First time that a Scottish Parliament Committee has asked the general public to provide questions that would inform the committee's questioning of the Scottish Government: [Health Committee](#)

Questions were answered by Alex Neil, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing

5 March 2014

First legislature in the UK to have its own [beehive](#)

4 April 2014

First time that a regional seat remained vacant until the following Scottish Parliament election. Margo MacDonald was the fifth regional MSP elected in Lothian in 2011. She died on 4 April 2014. Since she was elected as an Independent MSP, her seat remained vacant from 4 April 2014 until the Scottish Parliament election in 2016.

15 May 2014

First Bill designated to follow the procedure for a 'Scottish Law Commission' Bill: [Legal Writings \(Counterparts and Delivery\) \(Scotland\) Bill](#)

14 June 2014

First time that the [Queen's Baton Relay](#) has passed through the Scottish Parliament

30 September 2014

The first [Time for Reflection](#) that included a quotation from the Bible delivered in Scots

9 October 2014

First time tax rates were proposed in the [Draft Scottish Budget](#)

19 November 2014

First female MSP to be elected to the post of First Minister: [Nicola Sturgeon](#)

18 December 2014

First time a Minister took [maternity leave](#)

24 February 2015

First Bill under the procedure for a 'Scottish Law Commission' Bill to be passed: [Legal Writings \(Counterparts and Delivery\) \(Scotland\) Bill](#)

10 December 2015

First attempt to lodge a legislative consent memorandum for a bill where there was no agreement by both the UK and Scottish Governments that the Scottish Parliament's consent was required. The Presiding Officer determined that the Parliament's legislative consent was not required as the [UK Trade Union Bill](#) was not a relevant bill under chapter 9B of the Standing Orders

8 February 2016

First time a Scottish Parliament Committee published a [report on the renewal of the BBC charter](#). A [Memorandum of Understanding](#) was agreed between the Scottish Government, UK Government, Scottish Parliament and the UK Parliament in June 2015, which gave the Scottish Parliament a formal role in the process of reviewing the BBC charter for the first time

17 May 2016

First time that a Presiding Officer allowed MSPs to use electronic devices in the Debating Chamber to access information online during debates, and to engage in

social media discussions on parliamentary issues. [Ken Macintosh, Presiding Officer, instructed that the Chamber's WiFi system be switched on while Parliament is sitting.](#)

4 November 2016

First parliament in the world to be awarded [triple certification to the Carbon Trust Standard](#) in recognition of achievements in reducing carbon, waste and water use

15 December 2016

First [budget](#) in which the Scottish Government used the income tax powers devolved through the Scotland Act 2016

13 and 20 March 2017

First time that a Holyrood Committee and a Westminster Committee worked together. The Social Security Committee and the Scottish Affairs Committee held two joint meetings to discuss the delivery of the [devolution of social security](#)

20 April 2017

First appointment of an [Acting Convener](#) for a committee

7 September 2017

First [First Minister's Question Time](#) without open or diary questions

21 September 2017

First urgent question: asked by [Pauline McNeill about combustible cladding in Glasgow](#)

27 February 2018

First time a Scottish Government Bill has been introduced with provisions that the Presiding Officer has stated to be outwith the legislative competence of the Parliament: [UK Withdrawal from the European Union \(Legal Continuity\) \(Scotland\) Bill \(statements on legislative competence\)](#)

12 March 2018

A new [legal requirement to register lobbying activity](#) came into effect as the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016 came into force

15 May 2018

First time the Scottish Parliament voted overwhelmingly to refuse legislative consent: [European Union \(Withdrawal\) Bill](#)

2 October 2018

First [Committee Announcement](#) in the Scottish Parliament

11 October 2018

First UK legislature to host the BBC's political debate programme 'Question Time', broadcasting from the Scottish Parliament Debating Chamber as part of the [Festival of Politics](#)

13 December 2018

First time a Scottish Government Bill could not be submitted for Royal Assent in its unamended form. Following a reference under section 33 of the Scotland Act 1998 by the Attorney General and the Advocate General for Scotland, the Supreme Court ruled that some provisions of the [UK Withdrawal from the European Union \(Legal Continuity\) \(Scotland\) Bill](#) were outwith the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament

24 January 2019

First debate by the Finance and Constitution Committee to take place on [Committees' Pre-budget Scrutiny](#) – an aspect of the new budget scrutiny process based on recommendation 46 of the Budget Process Review Group, which stated that the Parliament should hold an annual debate allowing committees to discuss and debate their scrutiny and the general principles of the budget bill

5 March 2019

First time the Scottish Parliament and the National Assembly for Wales debated the same motion simultaneously: [the Scottish Parliament and the Welsh Assembly voted to pass identical motions calling for the planned Brexit date of 29 March 2019 to be put off](#)

6 March 2019

First grouping by the Presiding Officer of portfolio questions on the same subject matter so that these questions could be called consecutively. In this [Finance, Economy and Fair Work portfolio](#), questions 3 and 7 on a no deal Brexit were grouped together

6 February 2020

First female Member in Holyrood or Westminster, and the youngest politician at 29, to deliver a Scottish Budget: [Kate Forbes](#)

20 February 2020

First time a Bill required a supermajority to be passed, meaning that it required 86 members to vote for it to be passed: [Scottish Elections \(Franchise and Representation\) Bill](#)

5 March 2020

First ethnic minority convener of a committee: [Anas Sarwar, Public Audit and Post-legislative Scrutiny Committee](#)

1 April 2020

First additional Deputy Presiding Officer to be elected (for the duration of the public response to the Covid-19 pandemic) by electronic voting and secret ballot, rather than by paper ballot: [Lewis Macdonald](#)

9 April 2020

First [Party Leaders' Virtual Question Time](#), which took place due to the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown

17 April 2020

First [Members' Virtual Question Time](#), which took place due to the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown. Up to 19 Members had the chance to put questions to four Cabinet Secretaries on the Scottish Government's response to the Covid-19 outbreak

23 April 2020

First virtual committee meeting, which took place due to the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown: [Justice Committee](#)

12 May 2020

First hybrid [Meeting of the Parliament](#), which took place due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown

12 May 2020

First Stage 2 virtual committee meeting, which took place due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown: [COVID-19 Committee](#)

19 May 2020

First time that members of the COVID-19 Committee voted remotely on amendments to the Coronavirus (Scotland) (No.2) Bill using the virtual meeting platform: [COVID-19 Committee](#)

21 May 2020

First [Members' Hybrid Question Time](#), which took place due to the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown.

12 August 2020

First hybrid committee meeting, which took place due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown: [Education and Skills Committee](#)

30 December 2020

First time 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:

21 January 2021

On [21 January 2021](#) 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.

27 February 2021

First ethnic minority party leader: [Anas Sarwar, Scottish Labour](#)

25 March – 4 May 2021

First time the Scottish Parliament held a [campaign recess](#). Instead of dissolution, from 25 March 2021 the Parliament was in recess until the day before the election. This particular recess is called a “campaign recess”. Dissolution happened on 5 May 2021, the day before the election.

6 May 2021

First permanent wheelchair user elected to the Scottish Parliament:
Pam Duncan-Glancy

6 May 2021

First female Muslim MSP elected to the Scottish Parliament:
Kaukab Stewart

6 May 2021

First female Sikh MSP elected to the Scottish Parliament:
Pam Gosal

6 May 2021

First male Hindu MSP elected to the Scottish Parliament:
Dr Sandesh Gulhane

13 May 2021

First MSP to take the oath/affirmation using BSL: [Karen Adam](#)

13 May 2021

First MSP to take the oath/affirmation in Zimbabwean Shona: [Maggie Chapman](#)

13 May 2021

First time Punjabi was spoken in the Chamber: [Pam Gosal](#)

13 May 2021

First MSP to take the oath/affirmation in Orcadian: [Neil Gray](#)

13 May 2021

First MSP to take the oath/affirmation in German: [Angus Robertson](#)

13 May 2021

First MSP to take the oath/affirmation in Canadian French:
[Elena Whitham](#)

13 May 2021

First MSP to take the oath/affirmation in Welsh: [Rachael Hamilton](#)

8 June 2021

First motion lodged with Cornish translation: [Alasdair Allan MSP](#)

28 August 2021

First time that the Scottish Green Party entered government, as co-leaders Patrick Harvie and Lorna Slater became the Scotland's (and the UK's) first Green ministers. The [Co-operation Agreement](#) reached between the SNP and the Scottish Green Party was confirmed on 28 August 2021.

14 September 2021

First SPCB Urgent Question asked in the Chamber: [Scottish Parliament \(Designated Status\)](#) by Gillian Mackay

26 April 2022

The first [Time for Reflection](#) that was original and fully delivered in Scots

16 July 2022

First Cabinet Secretary to take maternity leave: [Kate Forbes](#)

20 September 2022

First MSP to take the oath pledging allegiance to King Charles III:

[Roz McCall](#)

About SPICe

The **Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe)** provides impartial, factual, accurate and timely information and analysis for the Parliament.

For more information please visit our website at www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/research-prepared-for-parliament

Follow [SPICe on Twitter](#) to keep up to date with our work and new publications.