

Thursday 11 January 2018

# Business Bulletin

*Iris Ghnothaichean*

Revised at 1:00pm



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Today's Business

### Meeting of the Parliament

**11:40 am** Parliamentary Bureau Motions

**11:40 am** General Questions

**12:00 pm** First Minister's Questions

**followed by** Members' Business — S5M-09621 Tom Arthur: Carer Positive Employer Initiative

**2:30 pm** Parliamentary Bureau Motions

**2:30 pm** Scottish Government Debate: Developing the Young Workforce: Review of Progress at the Midpoint of the Seven-year Programme

**followed by** Business Motions

**followed by** Parliamentary Bureau Motions

**5:00 pm** Decision Time

### Committee Meetings

**9:00am** Public Audit and Post-legislative Scrutiny Committee

**9:15am** Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee

## Meeting of the Parliament

### 11:40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

### 11:40 am General Questions

- 1. Bill Bowman:** To ask the Scottish Government what consultation it undertook with HMRC regarding any potential negative impact of diverging tax bands and rates from the rest of the UK. ([S5O-01634](#))
- 2. Dean Lockhart:** To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to the latest Scottish Fiscal Commission forecasts for economic growth. ([S5O-01635](#))
- 3. Adam Tomkins:** To ask the Scottish Government for what reason in its Draft Budget, spending on equalities is being increased by 12%. ([S5O-01636](#))
- 4. Gail Ross:** To ask the Scottish Government how many probationer teachers there will be in the academic year 2018-19. ([S5O-01637](#))
- 5. Lewis Macdonald:** To ask the Scottish Government by what date the National Trauma Network will be fully operational. ([S5O-01638](#))
- 6. Peter Chapman:** To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has to develop its policy for land value taxes, in light of the Scottish Land Commission's research on the use of such taxes in other countries. ([S5O-01639](#)) R
- 7. Colin Beattie:** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on its current road safety initiatives. ([S5O-01640](#))
- 8. Iain Gray:** To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it has made of the performance of ScotRail in delivering services on the North Berwick to Edinburgh line. ([S5O-01641](#))
- 9. Claire Baker:** To ask the Scottish Government when it last met Fife College and what issues were discussed. ([S5O-01642](#))
- 10. Gordon Lindhurst:** To ask the Scottish Government what effect the amalgamation of schools can have on communities that lose their local school as a result. ([S5O-01643](#))

### 12:00 pm First Minister's Questions

- 1. Ruth Davidson:** Question to be taken in Chamber. ([S5F-01878](#))
- 2. Richard Leonard:** Question to be taken in Chamber. ([S5F-01879](#))
- 3. Patrick Harvie:** Question to be taken in Chamber. ([S5F-01880](#))
- 4. Willie Rennie:** Question to be taken in Chamber. ([S5F-01881](#))
- 5. Kate Forbes:** To ask the First Minister how the Scottish Government plans to reduce the use of single-use disposable plastics such as plastic straws. ([S5F-01912](#))
- 6. Rachael Hamilton:** To ask the First Minister what action the Scottish Government is taking to improve small business confidence, in light of reports suggesting that it is at a near-record low. ([S5F-01901](#))

### followed by Members' Business

## Debate on the subject of—

**[S5M-09621](#) Tom Arthur: Carer Positive Employer Initiative**—That the Parliament supports the Carer Positive employer recognition scheme and its aim of making life better for carers; notes the vital job that carers do, which Carers Scotland estimates contributes the equivalent of around £10.8 billion per year to the economy and will likely increase as the population continues to age; welcomes the large number of employers of differing sizes from a wide range of sectors who have signed up to support carers in their workplace through the Carer Positive initiative; understands that Carer Positive is funded by the Scottish Government and was developed in partnership with public, private and voluntary sector organisations in Scotland; further understands that Carer Positive employers can progress through three accreditation levels of engaged, established and exemplary; notes that around 270,000 people in Scotland combine work with care and that, without support and understanding at work, carers can experience high levels of stress and exhaustion; recognises the importance of this scheme in supporting carers and employers; further recognises that this scheme can lead to benefits for employers, such as reduced absences, lower levels of staff turnover and savings on recruitment costs, and notes that employers across the Renfrewshire South constituency and Scotland are being encouraged to take steps to become Carer Positive employers and discover the benefits of supporting their workforce and those who rely on them.

## 2:30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

### 2:30 pm Scottish Government Debate: Developing the Young Workforce: Review of Progress at the Midpoint of the Seven-year Programme

**[S5M-09821](#) Jamie Hepburn: Developing the Young Workforce: Review of Progress at the Midpoint of the Seven-year Programme**—That the Parliament acknowledges the progress set out in the Developing the Young Workforce annual report 2016-17; notes the achievement of the programme's headline target, to reduce youth unemployment by 40% by 2021, four years ahead of schedule; recognises that there is more to do to address youth unemployment, particularly tackling gender imbalances in specific sectors and in improving employment opportunities for all young people, particularly those who are disabled, from minority ethnic backgrounds, or who are care-experienced, and believes that employers, schools, colleges and universities working in partnership through the Developing the Young Workforce regional groups can make a significant difference in improving the life chances of Scotland's young people.

The Presiding Officer has selected the following amendments

**[S5M-09821.3](#) Liz Smith: Developing the Young Workforce: Review of Progress at the Midpoint of the Seven-year Programme**—As an amendment to motion S5M-09821 in the name of Jamie Hepburn (Developing the Young Workforce: Review of Progress at the Midpoint of the Seven-year Programme), insert at end ", but recognises that these opportunities will only be realised if the aforementioned policies are accompanied by those designed to create a more diverse education system, which fully embraces vocational and technical training in the way set out by the commission that was led by Sir Ian Wood."

**[S5M-09821.2](#) Iain Gray: Developing the Young Workforce: Review of Progress at the Midpoint of the Seven-year Programme**—As an amendment to motion S5M-09821 in the name

of Jamie Hepburn (Developing the Young Workforce: Review of Progress at the Midpoint of the Seven-year Programme), leave out ", and believes" and insert "; recognises that the rise of exploitative zero-hours contracts is damaging to the future stability of the workforce; notes that the current methodology used by the Scottish Government considers a school leaver who becomes employed on a zero-hours contract to be in a 'positive destination'; believes that zero-hours contracts should be removed as a 'positive destination' for young people in official Scottish Government statistics, and that public procurement should not reward companies and organisations that engage in operating zero-hours contracts, but further believes".

**[S5M-09821.1](#) Tavish Scott: Developing the Young Workforce: Review of Progress at the Midpoint of the Seven-year Programme**—As an amendment to motion S5M-09821 in the name of Jamie Hepburn (Developing the Young Workforce: Review of Progress at the Midpoint of the Seven-year Programme), insert at end ", and further believes that a decentralised Skills Development Scotland, aligned to college regions, benefiting from closer partnerships with businesses, schools and other local agencies, would help achieve the objectives of the report of the commission that was led by Sir Ian Wood."

**followed by Business Motions**

**followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions**

**[S5M-09857](#) Joe FitzPatrick on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: Committee Membership**—That the Parliament agrees that Alex Rowley be appointed to replace David Stewart as a member of the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee.

**5:00 pm Decision Time**

## Committee Meetings

All meetings take place in the Scottish Parliament, unless otherwise specified.

### Public Audit and Post-legislative Scrutiny Committee 1st Meeting, 2018

The Committee will meet at 9:00 am in the Sir Alexander Fleming Room (CR3)

1. **Declaration of interests:** Subject to Parliamentary approval of motion S5M-09835, Iain Gray will be invited to declare any relevant interests.
2. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take items 5, 6 & 7 in private.
3. **The 2016/17 audit of the Scottish Government's Non-Domestic Rating Account:** The Committee will take evidence on the Auditor General for Scotland's section 22 report from—  
Caroline Gardner, Auditor General for Scotland;  
Stephen Boyle, Assistant Director, and Michael Oliphant, Senior Audit Manager, Audit Scotland.
4. **The administration of the Scottish Rate of Income Tax 2016-17:** The Committee will take evidence on the National Audit Office report from—  
Caroline Gardner, Auditor General for Scotland;  
Mark Taylor, Assistant Director, Audit Scotland;  
Sir Amyas Morse, Comptroller & Auditor General, and John Thorpe, Executive Leader, National Audit Office.
5. **The 2016/17 audit of the Scottish Government's Non-Domestic Rating Account:** The Committee will consider the evidence heard at agenda item 3 and take further evidence from—  
Caroline Gardner, Auditor General for Scotland;  
Stephen Boyle, Assistant Director, and Michael Oliphant, Senior Audit Manager, Audit Scotland.
6. **The administration of the Scottish Rate of Income Tax 2016-17:** The Committee will consider the evidence heard at agenda item 4 and take further evidence from—  
Caroline Gardner, Auditor General for Scotland;  
Mark Taylor, Assistant Director, Audit Scotland.
7. **Work programme:** The Committee will review its work programme.

### Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee 1st Meeting, 2018

The Committee will meet at 9:15 am in the David Livingstone Room (CR6)

1. **Declaration of interests:** Claire Baker will be invited to declare any relevant interests.
2. **Choice of Deputy Convener:** The Committee will choose a Deputy Convener.
3. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take item 4 in private.
4. **Erasmus+:** The Committee will take evidence from—  
Jackie Killeen, Director, British Council Scotland;  
Emily Beever, Senior Development Officer, YouthLink Scotland;  
Luke Humberstone, President, NUS Scotland;

Marion Spöring, Chair University Council for Modern Languages Scotland (UCMLS),  
Senior Lecturer in Applied Languages and European Studies, University of Dundee;  
Daniel Evans, Centre Head, Commercial and Marketing, West Lothian College.

5. **Scottish Government Reports:** The Committee will consider a series of biannual reports produced by the Scottish Government in relation to EU issues.
6. **Erasmus+:** The Committee will consider the evidence heard earlier in the meeting.
7. **Draft Budget Scrutiny 2018-19 (in private):** The Committee will consider its report.

## Contacts for Further Information

All telephone numbers 0131 348 XXXX

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Chamber Desk (Motions and Questions)	5199
Parliamentary Business Team (Chamber, Parliamentary Bureau)	5187
Legislation Team	5277
Non-Government Bills Unit (NGBU)	6124

### Committee web sites at:

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/committees.aspx>

<a href="#">Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations</a>	5234
<a href="#">Delegated Powers and Law Reform</a>	5212
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<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/101154.aspx>

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