

Wednesday 31 October 2018

Business Bulletin

Iris Ghnothaichean

Revised at 3:50pm



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Today's Business

Meeting of the Parliament

2:00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2:00 pm Portfolio Questions
Communities and Local Government
Social Security and Older People

followed by Scottish Conservative and
Unionist Party Debate: Concern Over the
State of Scotland's Ferry Services

followed by Scottish Conservative and
Unionist Party Debate: Early Years

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5:00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business — S5M-
13223 Joan McAlpine: Restoring the
Caledonian Pinewood Forest

Committee Meetings

8:15am Rural Economy and Connectivity
Committee

9:15am Local Government and Communities
Committee

10:00am Finance and Constitution
Committee

Meeting of the Parliament

2:00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2:00 pm Portfolio Questions

Communities and Local Government

- 1. Sandra White:** To ask the Scottish Government when it last met representatives from the Home Office to discuss the resources that Scotland's local authorities require to support asylum seekers. ([S5O-02479](#))
- 2. Colin Smyth:** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to support the development of better housing in Dumfries town centre. ([S5O-02480](#))
- 3. Liam McArthur:** To ask the Scottish Government how the views of local communities are taken into account by ministers during consideration of a planning appeal. ([S5O-02481](#))
- 4. Alex Cole-Hamilton:** [Not Lodged] ([S5O-02482](#))
- 5. Michelle Ballantyne:** To ask the Scottish Government how successful it considers participatory budgeting has been since the implementation of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. ([S5O-02483](#))
- 6. Jamie Greene:** To ask the Scottish Government when it will next meet North Ayrshire Council. ([S5O-02484](#))
- 7. John Scott:** To ask the Scottish Government what role local government will have in implementing the Enterprise and Skills Strategic Board's strategic plan. ([S5O-02485](#))
- 8. Monica Lennon:** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to ensure that planning policies and decisions do not discriminate against minority groups. ([S5O-02486](#))
- 9. Gillian Martin:** To ask the Scottish Government how it is ensuring that the housing built as part of its affordable and social house building programme contributes to a low carbon future. ([S5O-02487](#))
- 10. Gil Paterson:** To ask the Scottish Government what progress it is making toward meeting its target of building 50,000 affordable homes during the current parliamentary session. ([S5O-02488](#))

Social Security and Older People

- 1. Rachael Hamilton:** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to reduce levels of social isolation among older people. ([S5O-02489](#))
- 2. Alison Harris:** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on the estimates for social security spending in the Scottish Fiscal Commission's May 2018 economic and fiscal forecasts. ([S5O-02490](#))
- 3. John Mason:** To ask the Scottish Government what support it can give to older people who find themselves lonely and isolated. ([S5O-02491](#))
- 4. Linda Fabiani:** To ask the Scottish Government how it defines "older people". ([S5O-02492](#))
- 5. Mark Ruskell:** To ask the Scottish Government what support it can provide in response to the reported increase in rent arrears among Universal Credit recipients in the Mid Scotland and Fife region. ([S5O-02493](#))

- 6. Annie Wells:** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on what progress it is making with its commitment to recruit up to 250 community link workers to work in GP surgeries by the end of the parliamentary session. ([S5O-02494](#))
- 7. Liam Kerr:** To ask the Scottish Government what budget it expects Social Security Scotland to have for IT for the rest of the parliamentary session. ([S5O-02495](#))
- 8. Jeremy Balfour:** To ask the Scottish Government what measures are in place to protect vulnerable older people from bogus callers and rogue traders. ([S5O-02496](#))
- 9. Joan McAlpine:** To ask the Scottish Government what steps it is taking to support food banks that are struggling to cope with increased demand following the roll-out of Universal Credit. ([S5O-02497](#))
- 10. Alexander Stewart:** To ask the Scottish Government what Social Security Scotland's full-time equivalent headcount will be by 31 December 2018. ([S5O-02498](#))

followed by Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party Debate: Concern Over the State of Scotland's Ferry Services

S5M-14520 Jamie Greene: Concern Over the State of Scotland's Ferry Services—That the Parliament raises its concern over the provision of Scotland's ferry services, which have seen significant delays, disruptions and cancellations over the last 12 months to the detriment of Scotland's island and rural communities; notes that CalMac Ferries' managing director described this summer's disruptions as the worst in eight years and admitted that there is currently no resilience in the network based on the lack of additional available vessels in case of breakdowns; recognises the comments made by Audit Scotland in its 2017 report, *Transport Scotland's ferry services*, in which it called for a new long-term ferry strategy; recognises the necessity of ferries in boosting tourism and providing vital public services to island communities, and calls on the Scottish Government to remedy these failings and restore public confidence in Scotland's ferry network.

The Presiding Officer has selected the following amendments

S5M-14520.4 Paul Wheelhouse: Concern Over the State of Scotland's Ferry Services—As an amendment to motion S5M-14520 in the name of Jamie Greene (Concern Over the State of Scotland's Ferry Services), leave out from "raises" to end and insert "notes the concerns regarding the provision of Scotland's lifeline ferry services to island and rural communities and acknowledges the frustration to customers in the event of service failures; further acknowledges the significant actions that have been taken to address those concerns to support the continued socioeconomic development of Scotland's remote and island communities; recognises the commendable work of ferry operators' crew and staff in maintaining high levels of performance; notes the ongoing review of investment plans and priorities, including the development of an action plan to further address resilience issues on the Clyde and Hebrides network; recognises the continued significant levels of investment in upgraded infrastructure; acknowledges the commitment to an inclusive approach to vessel design and procurement, which includes communities, public sector partners and trade unions, and acknowledges the positive contribution that ferries procurement is making to Scotland's ambitious strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions generated by its ferry operations."

S5M-14520.3 Colin Smyth: Concern Over the State of Scotland's Ferry Services—As an amendment to motion S5M-14520 in the name of Jamie Greene (Concern Over the State of

Scotland's Ferry Services), insert at end “; recognises that ferry capacity must be able to meet demand and that the funding and purchasing of new ferries needs to be transparent, and calls on the Scottish Government to bring forward a long-term ferry strategy, accompanied by a comprehensive implementation and delivery plan, and a national shipbuilding strategy detailing its long-term ambitions for the sector and setting out a 30-year programme of work.”

followed by **Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party Debate: Early Years**

[S5M-14521](#) Alison Harris: Early Years—That the Parliament is committed to improving the availability of, and flexibility in, the provision of high-quality childcare; recognises that, in order to deliver the Scottish Government’s ambitions, there has to be much more effective partnership working between state and private sector providers; is very concerned therefore at the recent findings that have been issued by the National Day Nurseries Association, which show that fewer than one-third of private sector providers are currently in a position to expand place numbers because they feel that there has been a lack of engagement from both the Scottish Government and some local authorities when addressing their concerns about access to capital funding and the lower payments being made to many private sector providers; believes that these concerns are in line with those set out by Audit Scotland earlier in 2018, when it reported that there were “significant risks” within the current Scottish Government policy on childcare, and demands urgent action from the Scottish Ministers to ensure that private sector providers, as well as state sector providers, are able to meet their full potential when it comes to delivering expanded childcare.

The Presiding Officer has selected the following amendments

[S5M-14521.2](#) Maree Todd: Early Years—As an amendment to motion S5M-14521 in the name of Alison Harris (Early Years), leave out from “recognises that” to end and insert “reconfirms its support for expanding the provision to 1,140 hours of funded, high-quality early learning and childcare for all three- and four-year-olds and for eligible two-year-olds through a provider-neutral approach; believes that all frontline staff delivering the 1,140 hours provision must be paid the real living wage; welcomes that funding for the real living wage formed part of the £1 billion multi-year funding package agreed with local government; recognises the concerns expressed by some private providers on local engagement and investment; further recognises recent progress, including the adoption of partnership working principles by COSLA and the creation of an Early Learning and Childcare Partnership Forum; believes that there is a need to ensure best practice on partnership working and investment, such as the approaches adopted in Angus, the City of Edinburgh and Moray that were commended recently by members of the partnership forum, and agrees that the Scottish Government must work with COSLA, individual local authorities and providers themselves to ensure that best practice is replicated in all parts of Scotland.”

[S5M-14521.1](#) Mary Fee: Early Years—As an amendment to motion S5M-14521 in the name of Alison Harris (Early Years), insert at end “, and that this action should include publishing data on the size of the current workforce, as well as information on how the Scottish Government expects to meet staffing targets, given that it estimated that up to 11,000 additional early learning and childcare workers will be required by 2020 to deliver the planned expansion.”

followed by **Business Motions**

[S5M-14535](#) Graeme Dey on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: Business Motion—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 6 November 2018

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Impact of the UK Government Welfare Cuts and Universal Credit on Poverty

followed by Legislative Consent Motion: Ivory Bill – UK Legislation

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Committee Announcements

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 7 November 2018

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Finance, Economy and Fair Work

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Safeguarding Scotland's International Research Collaborations and Reputation for Scientific Excellence from the Threat of Brexit

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 8 November 2018

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

followed by Motion of Remembrance

2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.30 pm Members' Business

followed by Ministerial Statement: Scotland's Plan to Improve the Educational Experience of LGBTI Young People

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Prescription (Scotland) Bill

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 13 November 2018

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Scottish Government Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Committee Announcements

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 14 November 2018

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Rural Economy; Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform

followed by Scottish Government Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 15 November 2018

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

followed by Members' Business

2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.30 pm Scottish Government Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

(b) that, in relation to any debate on a business motion setting out a business programme taken on Wednesday 7 November 2018, the second sentence of rule 8.11.3 is suspended and replaced with "Any Member may speak on the motion at the discretion of the Presiding Officer"

and

(c) that, in relation to First Minister's Questions on 8 November 2018, in rule 13.6.2, insert at end "and may provide an opportunity for Party Leaders or their representatives to question the First Minister".

[S5M-14536](#) Graeme Dey on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: Business Motion—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Restricted Roads (20 mph Speed Limit) (Scotland) Bill at stage 1 be completed by Friday 21 June 2019.

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

[S5M-14537](#) Graeme Dey on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: Designation of Lead

Committee—That the Parliament agrees that the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the South of Scotland Enterprise Bill at stage 1.

[S5M-14538](#) Graeme Dey on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: Office of the Clerk—That the Parliament agrees that the Office of the Clerk be closed on Thursday 27, Friday 28 and Monday 31 December 2018.

[S5M-14556](#) Graeme Dey on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: Designation of Lead

Committee—That the Parliament agrees that the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the legislative consent memorandum in relation to the Agriculture Bill (UK Legislation).

5:00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Debate on the subject of—

[S5M-13223](#) Joan McAlpine: Restoring the Caledonian Pinewood Forest—That the Parliament recognises that only 1% of the original Caledonian Pinewood forest remains today across Scotland, including areas in the south of Scotland; understands that the environmental and ecological consequences of this are significant as the pinewood forest is an important habitat for a number of wildlife species, including aspen, black grouse, capercaillie, golden eagle, juniper, wood ant, pine marten, red squirrel, tree lungwort, twinflower and wildcat; believes that many of the remaining fragments of forest are not being actively managed and that the Caledonian Pinewood Recovery Project, being implemented by Trees For Life, aims to save these remnant pinewoods; notes that the project sees Trees for Life working in partnership with The Woodland Trust Scotland to assess the health of the remaining pinewood fragments and work with landowners to promote their better management, thereby restoring Scotland's unique pinewoods, and commends the work of Trees for Life and The Woodland Trust Scotland.

Committee Meetings

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

Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee 27th Meeting, 2018

The Committee will meet at 8:15 am in the Mary Fairfax Somerville Room (CR2)

1. **Pre-Budget Scrutiny (in private):** The Committee will consider a draft letter on its Pre-Budget Scrutiny.
2. **Salmon farming in Scotland (in private):** The Committee will consider a draft report.
3. **South of Scotland Enterprise Bill (in private):** The Committee will consider its approach to its anticipated scrutiny of the Bill at Stage 1.
4. **Restricted Roads (20 mph Speed Limit) (Scotland) Bill (in private):** The Committee will consider its approach to the scrutiny of the Bill at Stage 1.
5. **Agriculture update:** The Committee will take evidence from-

Fergus Ewing, Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy, Elinor Mitchell, Director for Agriculture and Rural Economy, David Barnes, National Adviser on Agriculture Policy, Ian Davidson, Head of Agriculture Policy Division, and Douglas Petrie, Head of Area Offices & Head of Agricultural Profession, Scottish Government.

Local Government and Communities Committee 29th Meeting, 2018

The Committee will meet at 9:15 am in the Robert Burns Room (CR1)

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take items 4 and 5 in private.
2. **Planning (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee will consider the Bill at Stage 2 (Day 5).
3. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee will consider the following negative instrument—
The Private Landlord Registration (Information and Fees) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2018 (SSI 2018/292).
4. **Pre-Budget Scrutiny:** The Committee will consider a draft letter to the Scottish Government on its Pre-Budget Scrutiny.
5. **Fuel Poverty (Target, Definition and Strategy) (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee will further consider its approach to the scrutiny of the Bill at Stage 1.

Finance and Constitution Committee 27th Meeting, 2018

The Committee will meet at 10:00 am in the David Livingstone Room (CR6)

1. **Pre-Budget Scrutiny 2019/20 (in private):** The Committee will consider a draft report on its Pre-Budget Scrutiny 2019/20.

Contacts for Further Information

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