

Tuesday 31 October 2023

Business Bulletin

Iris Ghnothaichean

Revised at 1:15pm



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Today's Business

Subject to the Parliament's agreement of S6M-11042, today's business will be as follows:

Meeting of the Parliament

2:00 pm Time for Reflection: Micheal Matovu, Commercial Director, Radiant and Brighter

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions

followed by Scottish Government Debate:
Rural and Islands Housing Action Plan

followed by Ministerial Statement: Scottish Government's Provision of Information to the Covid-19 Inquiries

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5:10 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business — S6M-09705 Katy Clark: Fire Service Cuts

Committee Meetings

9:15am Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

9:15am Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee

9:30am Finance and Public Administration Committee

9:30am Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee

9:45am Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee

10:00am Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee

Meeting of the Parliament

Subject to the Parliament's agreement of S6M-11042, today's business will be as follows:

2:00 pm Time for Reflection: Micheal Matovu, Commercial Director, Radiant and Brighter

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

[S6M-11042](#) George Adam on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: Revision to Business Programme—That the Parliament agrees to the following revisions to the programme of business for—

(a) Tuesday 31 October 2023

after

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Rural and Islands Housing Action Plan

insert

followed by Ministerial Statement: Scottish Government's Provision of Information to the COVID-19 Inquiries

delete

5.00 pm Decision Time

and insert

5.10 pm Decision Time

(b) Thursday 2 November 2023

after

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Early Childhood Development Transformational Change Programme

insert

followed by Appointments of the Chair and Commissioners of the Poverty and Inequality Commission

followed by Topical Questions

1. Murdo Fraser: To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to address the extreme delays reportedly being encountered by users of the A9 north of Dunkeld due to SGN gas pipe replacement works. ([S6T-01602](#))

2. Katy Clark: To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on what action it is taking to resolve industrial action in schools. ([S6T-01599](#))

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Rural and Islands Housing Action Plan

S6M-11027 Paul McLennan: Rural and Islands Housing Action Plan—That the Parliament welcomes the publication of the Rural and Islands Housing Action Plan that will support the Scottish Government’s ambition to deliver 110,000 affordable homes, of which 10% will be in rural and island areas and help attract people to, and retain people in, these communities; recognises that the action plan complements a range of other vital work being taken forward to support sustainable economic growth and to deliver for rural and island communities; considers that it marks an important step in tackling challenges to deliver and retain more homes of all tenures and puts in place the systems and support for the delivery of the right homes in the right place, and believes that achieving delivery of ambitions will require the Scottish Government to work collaboratively with a wide range of partners, including local authorities, registered social landlords, community organisations and Scottish Government agencies, to deliver committed and coordinated action that will support thriving rural and island communities.

The Presiding Officer has selected the following amendments

S6M-11027.1 Rachael Hamilton: Rural and Islands Housing Action Plan—As an amendment to motion S6M-11027 in the name of Paul McLennan (Rural and Islands Housing Action Plan), leave out from “of which” to “marks” and insert “but regrets that only 10% of these homes will be delivered in rural and island areas to help attract people to, and retain people in, these communities, which comprise 17% of Scotland’s population; recognises that depopulation has been a longstanding problem for Scotland’s rural and island communities, due to a consistent lack of government action; notes that the current rural development programmes, despite being extended, have not been fully utilised; recognises that the plan must deliver on its objectives and promote rural and island areas as good places to live and work; acknowledges that the plan is”.

S6M-11027.2 Mark Griffin: Rural and Islands Housing Action Plan—As an amendment to motion S6M-11027 in the name of Paul McLennan (Rural and Islands Housing Action Plan), leave out from "welcomes" to end and insert "notes the publication of the Rural and Islands Housing Action Plan, which aims to support the Scottish Government’s ambition to deliver 110,000 affordable homes, of which 10% will be in rural and island areas; believes that an interim target should be set for 5,500 houses to be completed in rural areas by 2026; is concerned that, without sufficient economic support from the Scottish Government, the strategy will not provide the infrastructure needed to allow local authorities, registered social landlords, community organisations and Scottish Government agencies to successfully attract people to, and retain people in, these communities; considers that the depopulation of rural areas should not be seen as the status quo, and notes the Scottish Labour Party’s commitment to put economic prosperity at the front and centre of ensuring that Gaelic-speaking communities can survive and thrive; notes that this rural housing crisis is, in some part, due to local people being priced out of the area by the acquisition of second homes; calls on the Scottish Government to take further action to ensure that houses in rural areas are affordable and good quality, and that existing homes are a vital part of the housing stock; agrees that the Scottish Government should give local authorities powers to introduce an escalating council tax surcharge on empty homes in the next Budget, to be launched in 2024-25, as was supported by the responses to the Scottish Government’s recent consultation on Council Tax for Second and Empty Homes, and calls on the Scottish Government to take decisive action to tackle fuel poverty and damp, poor quality housing in rural areas, to improve transport infrastructure, and to support the economic lifeblood of small rural communities by delivering skilled workforces, supporting small businesses and ensuring a just transition that delivers community energy benefits."

followed by Ministerial Statement: Scottish Government's Provision of Information to the Covid-19 Inquiries

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

[S6M-11043](#) George Adam on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: Committee Membership— That the Parliament agrees that—

Ivan McKee be appointed to replace Stephanie Callaghan as a member of the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee;

Stephanie Callaghan be appointed to replace Ivan McKee as a member of the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee; and

John Mason be appointed to replace James Dornan as a member of the Social Justice and Social Security Committee.

[S6M-11044](#) George Adam on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: Substitution on Committees— That the Parliament agrees that—

Emma Harper be appointed to replace Christine Grahame as the Scottish National Party substitute on the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee; and

James Dornan be appointed to replace Stephanie Callaghan as the Scottish National Party substitute on the Social Justice and Social Security Committee.

5:10 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business Debate on the subject of—

[S6M-09705](#) Katy Clark: Fire Service Cuts— That the Parliament notes, with concern, reports that the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) has ordered the temporary withdrawal of fire appliances at 10 stations across Scotland, including Greenock Community Fire Station in the West Scotland region; understands that the Fire Brigades Union has expressed deep concern that this reduction will risk the safety of both firefighters and the wider public; further understands that the SFRS is expected to receive a flat cash budget settlement from the Scottish Government over the next four years, and that the service claims it must make £36 million in cuts as a result; believes that this follows a decade of cuts, the reported loss of 1,100 firefighter jobs, and, it understands, a 14% increase in average response times per incident; notes SFRS Chief Officer Ross Haggart's comments that there is also a £630 million backlog in the service's capital investment; further notes reported freedom of information (FOI) findings that 75% of buildings in Scotland's fire estate are assessed as being of "bad" or "poor" suitability, and that around 45% are assessed as being in either "bad" or "poor" condition; believes that the combination of withdrawn appliances and what it sees as a dilapidated fire estate puts firefighters, who are exposed to health risks from encountering dangerous fire contaminants in their job, at further risk; further believes that

firefighters work hard to ensure the safety of people in Scotland's communities; notes the view that firefighters deserve to be well-equipped, well-resourced, well-protected and well-paid to do the job that they do, and further notes calls for the Scottish Government to come forward with emergency funding for both day-to-day spend and capital budgets, in order to prevent further cuts to staff and equipment, and to modernise the fire estate.

Committee Meetings

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

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee 31st Meeting, 2023

The Committee will meet at 9:15 am in TG.60-CR3 The Fleming Room

- Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take items 3 to 5 in private.
- National Care Service (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee will take evidence on the Bill at Stage 1 from—
Lilian Macer, Regional Secretary, UNISON Scotland;
Dave Moxham, Deputy General Secretary, Scottish Trades Union Congress;
Cara Stevenson, Organiser for Women's Campaign Unit, GMB Scotland;
and then from—
Rachel Cackett, Chief Executive Officer, Coalition of Care and Support Providers in Scotland (CCPS);
Dr Jim Elder-Woodward, OBE, Convenor for Inclusion Scotland and member of the People Led Policy Panel, Inclusion Scotland;
Rob Gowans, Policy and Public Affairs Manager, Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE);
Dr Donald Macaskill, Chief Executive, Scottish Care.
- National Care Service (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee will consider the evidence it heard earlier under agenda item 2.
- Post-legislative scrutiny: Social Care (Self-directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013:** The Committee will consider its approach to the inquiry.
- Healthcare in remote and rural areas:** The Committee will consider its approach to the inquiry.

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee 30th Meeting, 2023

The Committee will meet at 9:15 am in T4.40-CR2 The Fairfax Somerville Room

- Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take items 6, 7 and 8 in private.
- Subordinate legislation:** The Committee will take evidence on the [Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme \(Amendment\) \(No. 2\) Order 2023](#) [draft] from—
Màiri McAllan, Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero and Just Transition, Mariana Cover, Senior Policy Advisor, UK Emissions Trading Scheme, and Lucy Geoghegan, Head of Unit, Net Zero Economy and Carbon Markets, Scottish Government.
- Subordinate legislation:** Màiri McAllan (Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero and Just Transition) to move—[S6M-10535](#)—That the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee recommends that the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme (Amendment) (No. 2) Order 2023 [draft] be approved.
- Scottish Water (Annual Report and Accounts 2022-23):** The Committee will take evidence from—

Dame Susan Rice DBE, Chair, Alex Plant, Chief Executive Officer, and Peter Farrer, Chief Operating Officer, Scottish Water;
Johanna Dow, Chief Executive, Business Stream.

5. **Circular Economy (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee will take evidence on the Bill at Stage 1 from—
Al Denholm, Chief Executive Officer, and Jimmy Williamson, Executive Director, Investment Team, Scottish National Investment Bank.
6. **Scottish Water (Annual Report and Accounts 2022-23):** The Committee will consider the evidence it heard earlier under agenda item 4.
7. **Circular Economy (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee will consider the evidence it heard earlier under agenda item 5.
8. **Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009:** The Committee will consider further proposals for a deliberative democracy exercise on section 91 of the 2009 Act (public engagement) involving a People's Panel.

Finance and Public Administration Committee 27th Meeting, 2023

The Committee will meet at 9:30 am in TG.40-CR1 The Burns Room

1. **The sustainability of Scotland's finances (in private):** The Committee will consider a draft report.

Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee 25th Meeting, 2023

The Committee will meet at 9:30 am in T4.60-CR6 The Livingstone Room

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take item 4 in private.
2. **Visitor Levy (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee will take evidence on the Bill at Stage 1 from—
Jamie Baker, Service Manager, Economic Development, East Lothian Council;
Morag Johnston, Director of Financial and Business Services, Glasgow City Council;
Paul Lawrence, Executive Director of Place, City of Edinburgh Council;
Cllr Bill Lobban, Convener, Highland Council;
Fergus Murray, Head of Development and Economic Growth, Argyll & Bute Council;
Kathlene Morrison, Economic Development Officer – Innovation, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar;
and then from—
Tim Fairhurst, Director General, and Simon Smith, Policy Manager, The European Tourism Association (ETOA).
3. **Visitor Levy (Scotland) Bill (in private):** The Committee will consider the evidence heard earlier in the meeting.
4. **Work programme:** The Committee will consider its approach to anticipated regulations on council tax on second homes.

Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee 21st Meeting, 2023

The Committee will meet at 9:45 am in T1.60-CR4 The Clerk Maxwell Room

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take item 3 in private.
2. **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee will take evidence on the Bill at Reconsideration Stage from—
Nicola Killean, and Gina Wilson, Head of Strategy, Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland;
Juliet Harris, Director, Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights);
Jan Savage, Executive Director, Scottish Human Rights Commission;
Fiona Menzies, Policy Manager, Law Society of Scotland;
and then from—
Councillor Tony Buchanan, Children and Young People Board Spokesperson, COSLA;
Derek Frew, Temporary Chief Superintendent, Head of Partnerships, Prevention and Community Wellbeing, Police Scotland;
Dr Andrew Tickell, Senior Lecturer in Law, Glasgow Caledonian University.
3. **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee will consider the evidence it heard under agenda item 2.

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee 29th Meeting, 2023

The Committee will meet at 10:00 am in T1.40-CR5 The Smith Room

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take items 5, 6, 7 and 8 in private.
2. **Instruments subject to affirmative procedure:** The Committee will consider the following—
[Budget \(Scotland\) Act 2023 Amendment Regulations 2023](#) (SSI 2023/Draft)
[Vehicle Emissions Trading Schemes Order 2023](#) (SI 2023/Draft)
[Plant Health \(Fees\) \(Forestry\) \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2023](#) (SSI 2023/Draft)
3. **Instruments subject to negative procedure:** The Committee will consider the following—
[Public Procurement \(Agreement on Government Procurement\) \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2023](#) (SSI 2023/287)
[Non-Domestic Rating Contributions \(Scotland\) Amendment Regulations 2023](#) (SSI 2023/288)
4. **Instruments not subject to any parliamentary procedure:** The Committee will consider the following—
[Social Security \(Iceland\) \(Liechtenstein\) \(Norway\) \(Further provision in respect of Scotland\) Order 2023](#) (SSI 2023/282)
5. **Welfare of Dogs (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee will consider the response from the Member-in-charge to points raised on the delegated powers in this Bill at Stage 1.
6. **Circular Economy (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee will consider the Scottish Government's response to points raised on the delegated powers in this Bill at Stage 1.
7. **Work of the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee 2022-23:** The Committee will consider a draft report outlining the work of the Committee during the parliamentary year 2022-23.
8. **Work programme:** The Committee will consider a Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee consultation on Standing Order rule changes to provide for motions refusing legislative consent.

Contacts for Further Information

All telephone numbers 0131 348 XXXX

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Committee web sites at:

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