Wednesday 10 December 2025

Business Bulletin

Iris Ghnothaichean

Revised at 2:16pm



Today's Business

Meeting of the Parliament

2:00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2:00 pm Portfolio Questions: Deputy First Minister Responsibilities, Economy and Gaelic; Finance and Local Government

followed by Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party Debate: Controlling the Rising Benefits Bill in Scotland

followed by Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party Debate: Connecting Scotland

followed by Urgent Question: Douglas Ross: To ask the Scottish Government whether it will release all correspondence between the Scottish Government and Professor Alexis Jay, and what mechanism will be used to provide this information to MSPs and Parliament.

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

Committee Meetings

8:30am Rural Affairs and Islands Committee

9:00am Criminal Justice Committee

9:00am Education, Children and Young People Committee

9:30am Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee

9:30am Economy and Fair Work Committee

9:30am Public Audit Committee

5:20 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business: Keith Brown: Scotland National Football Team Qualifies for the 2026 FIFA World Cup Today's Business
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Meeting of the Parliament

2:00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2:00 pm Portfolio Questions: Deputy First Minister Responsibilities, Economy and Gaelic; Finance and Local Government

Deputy First Minister Responsibilities, Economy and Gaelic

- **1. Liz Smith:** To ask the Scottish Government, in light of its recent decision to allow a flat-rate approach to the visitor levy, what discussions the economy secretary has had with ministerial colleagues regarding whether to also introduce lower non-domestic rates for retail, hospitality and leisure businesses. (S6O-05259)
- **2. Bob Doris:** To ask the Scottish Government how it supports Scotland's Living Wage Places to encourage the uptake of the real Living Wage amongst employers. (S6O-05260)
- **3. Douglas Lumsden:** To ask the Scottish Government what discussions the economy secretary has had with ministerial colleagues on how its internal modelling of oil and gas jobs in the north east compares with the latest industry estimates. (S6O-05261)
- **4. Tess White:** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on the impact of its export growth strategy, A Trading Nation, including what metrics it has used to assess this. (S6O-05262)
- **5. Michael Matheson:** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to support manufacturing, including in the renewable energy sector. (S6O-05263)
- **6. Rhoda Grant:** To ask the Scottish Government, in light of parents now being able to request Gaelic school provision in their areas, what financial and resource support it is providing to local authorities to ensure that such requests can be considered and implemented. (S6O-05264)
- **7. Gordon MacDonald:** To ask the Scottish Government, regarding any implications for its work to grow Scotland's economy, whether it will provide an update on its engagement with the UK Government regarding the Office for Budget Responsibility's recent economic forecasts. (S60-05265)
- **8. Willie Rennie:** To ask the Scottish Government what discussions the economy secretary has had with ministerial colleagues regarding support for the workforce and local economy of Mossmorran, in light of ExxonMobil's announcement that the Fife Ethylene Plant will be closed. (S6O-05266)

Finance and Local Government

- **1. Keith Brown:** To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it has made of the contribution that community-led initiatives can make to supporting local government services and outcomes, and reducing demand through early intervention and prevention. (S6O-05267)
- **2. Ariane Burgess:** To ask the Scottish Government how the planning process monitors the delivery of any job creation figures included within planning applications, including applications for salmon farms, once they are built and operational. (\$60-05268)
- **3. Jackie Dunbar:** To ask the Scottish Government how it is supporting Aberdeen City Council to maintain its local government services, including in response to any increasing social need in the city. (\$60-05269)
- **4. Audrey Nicoll:** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on its engagement with the UK Government regarding the Energy Profits Levy and its implications for north east Scotland. (S6O-05270)

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- **5. Carol Mochan:** To ask the Scottish Government what measures it will take in its Budget to support high street retailers in the South Scotland region that are at risk of closing. (S6O-05271)
- **6. Richard Leonard:** To ask the Scottish Government what communication the finance secretary has had with the UK Government and the Financial Conduct Authority regarding what support is available for policyholders impacted by the withdrawal of the Family Protection Plan by CMutual and Maiden Life Försäkrings. (S6O-05272)
- **7. Fulton MacGregor:** To ask the Scottish Government how much it will allocate in its forthcoming Budget to local authorities to provide financial support to those affected by RAAC, including businesses. (S6O-05273)
- **8. Tim Eagle:** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on what plans it has to amend tax thresholds in the next Scottish Budget. (S6O-05274)

followed by Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party Debate: Controlling the Rising Benefits Bill in Scotland

S6M-20056 Alexander Stewart: Controlling the Rising Benefits Bill in Scotland—That the Parliament believes that social security spending by the Scottish Government and its future social security spending commitments are unsustainable; notes the report published by Audit Scotland in September 2025, Adult Disability Payment; further notes that the Audit Scotland report highlights a "funding gap for devolved social security spending of £2.0 billion by 2029/30"; calls on the Scottish Government to explain why, according to Audit Scotland, it "has not yet set out a detailed strategy for how it will manage the forecast gap between social security funding and spending"; believes that raising taxes in order to remove the limit on the child element of Universal Credit was not the right priority for either the Scottish Government or the UK Government, and calls on the Scottish Government to use the money that it will save, as a result of the UK Government's decision, to lower costs for people across Scotland by instead cutting income tax.

The Presiding Officer has selected the following amendments

<u>S6M-20056.3</u> Shirley-Anne Somerville: Controlling the Rising Benefits Bill in Scotland—As an amendment to motion S6M-20056 in the name of Alexander Stewart (Controlling the Rising Benefits Bill in Scotland), leave out from first "believes" to end and insert "reaffirms its commitment to the social security principles contained in the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 and unanimously adopted by the Parliament, including that social security is an investment in the people of Scotland and is itself a human right; welcomes the abolition of the two-child limit across the UK; calls on the UK Labour administration to go further and scrap other damaging welfare reforms implemented by the previous UK administration, including the benefit cap, and supports the Scotlish Government's commitment to reinvest funding to end the two-child limit in further measures to tackle child poverty in Scotland."

S6M-20056.2 Claire Baker: Controlling the Rising Benefits Bill in Scotland—As an amendment to motion S6M-20056 in the name of Alexander Stewart (Controlling the Rising Benefits Bill in Scotland), leave out from first "believes" to end and insert "notes with concern Audit Scotland's recent assessment of a 'funding gap for devolved social security spending of £2.0 billion by 2029/30' and the absence of a 'detailed strategy for how [the Scottish Government] will manage the forecast gap between social security funding and spending'; welcomes the announcement in the 2025 UK Budget of the removal of the two-child limit for universal credit, noting that this will lift an estimated 450,000 children across the UK out of poverty and that, in the assessment of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 'the projected fall in child poverty over the current parliament would be the biggest on record'; believes that this must be followed by a renewed focus in Scotland on tackling the causes of poverty and boosting the means of defeating it, such as employability, housing and education, and further believes that the long-term solution to breaking the generational cycle of poverty in Scotland must include supporting people into sustainable and well-paid work."

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followed by Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party Debate: Connecting Scotland

S6M-20057 Sue Webber: Connecting Scotland—That the Parliament recognises the importance of Scotland's road network to delivering enhanced connectivity and economic growth across Scotland; urges the Scottish Government to accelerate the upgrading and dualling of key roads such as the A75, A77 and A96, and to adhere to its promise to dual the A9 by 2035 or earlier and to ensure that this project is finally completed by not rejecting private funding; believes that improved connections across Scotland can be enhanced through the provision of more safe and secure rest stops, particularly for the logistics sector; rejects the UK Labour administration's planned imposition of a pay-per-mile tax for electric and hybrid vehicles, and urges the Scottish Ministers to undertake greater efforts to future proof the EV charging network across Scotland's key roads, and urges the Scottish Government to commit to ensuring that the upgrading of Scotland's roads remains central to future economic and social development.

The Presiding Officer has selected the following amendments

<u>S6M-20057.3</u> Fiona Hyslop: Connecting Scotland—As an amendment to motion S6M-20057 in the name of Sue Webber (Connecting Scotland), leave out from "; urges" to end and insert "and the progress being made to deliver the completion of the A9 dualling in 2035 specifically; further recognises that both public and private funding has been used to support the development of the trunk road network, including the use of private finance for the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route/Balmedie-Tipperty and the M8, M74 and M73 motorway improvements, and that private finance will continue to play a role in the future; notes that the Union Connectivity Review, undertaken by Lord Peter Hendy on behalf of the previous UK Conservative administration, recognised the contribution that the A75 makes in linking the rest of the UK to Northern Ireland; urges the UK Government to match the previous UK Conservative administration's funding commitment for the A75; notes the improvements undertaken by the Scottish Government to the A77, including the Maybole Bypass; welcomes the ongoing constructive work between the Scottish Government and the A77 Campaign Group and South West Transport Alliance; supports the full dualling of the A96, beginning with the Inverness to Nairn section, along with delivery of the Inshes to Smithton Link Road, as part of the Inverness and Highland City Region Deal; agrees that improved connections across Scotland can be enhanced through the provision of more safe and secure rest stops, particularly for the logistics sector; rejects the UK Government's planned imposition of a pay-per-mile tax for electric and hybrid vehicles, regretting the ill-thought-out and counter-productive proposal, which will be bad for the climate and for rural Scotland in particular; agrees that the switch to EV cars and the provision of public and at-home EV infrastructure will be vital to Scotland meeting its climate change targets, and calls on the UK Government to engage in four nations discussions on motoring taxation reform to support a properly planned transition to EV car use."

<u>S6M-20057.1</u> Daniel Johnson: Connecting Scotland—As an amendment to motion S6M-20057 in the name of Sue Webber (Connecting Scotland), leave out from "; rejects" to end and insert ", and considers that future transport infrastructure decisions should be based on economic importance, safety and local necessity, and underpinned by a national industrial strategy and a strategic spatial plan."

<u>S6M-20057.2</u> Mark Ruskell: Connecting Scotland—As an amendment to motion S6M-20057 in the name of Sue Webber (Connecting Scotland), leave out from "recognises" to end and insert "believes that future transport investment must prioritise sustainability, equality, public transport and active travel over large-scale road building, and further believes that investment in roads should improve safety, address maintenance backlogs, deliver climate resilience on vulnerable routes, including the A83, help prioritise road space for buses and be matched with ambitious investment in rail, including upgrading the Highland Mainline and reconnecting communities, such as Newburgh, to the rail network."

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followed by Urgent Question: Douglas Ross: To ask the Scottish Government whether it will release all correspondence between the Scottish Government and Professor Alexis Jay, and what mechanism will be used to provide this information to MSPs and Parliament.

followed by Business Motions

<u>S6M-20101</u> Graeme Dey: Revision to Business Programme—That the Parliament agrees to the following revision to the programme of business for Thursday 11 December 2025—

after

followed by Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee Debate: British Sign Language (Scotland) Act 2015 Inquiry

insert

followed by Financial Resolution: Children (Withdrawal from Religious Education and Amendment of UNCRC Compatibility Duty) (Scotland) Bill

S6M-20068 Graeme Dey: Business Programme—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 16 December 2025

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Dog Theft (Scotland) Bill

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Schools (Residential Outdoor Education) (Scotland) Bill

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

6.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 17 December 2025

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands; Health and Social Care

followed by Ministerial Statement: Protecting Children from Harm

followed by Criminal Justice Committee Debate: Cybercrime

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followed by Motion on Legislative Consent: Pension Schemes Bill – UK Legislation

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.30 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 18 December 2025

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

12.45 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Portfolio Questions: Social Justice and Housing

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Contract (Formation and Remedies) (Scotland) Bill

followed by Motion on Legislative Consent: Sentencing Bill – UK Legislation

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

3.10 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Tuesday 6 January 2026

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions

followed by Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee Debate: Legal Aid

followed by Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee Debate: Petition PE2018: Recognise the value of swimming pools and provide financial relief to help keep pools open

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

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followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 7 January 2026

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Constitution, External Affairs and Culture, and Parliamentary Business; Justice and Home Affairs

followed by Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.10 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 8 January 2026

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 Portfolio Questions: Education and Skills

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Building Safety Levy (Scotland) Bill

followed by Financial Resolution: Building Safety Levy (Scotland) Bill

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

(b) that, for the purposes of Portfolio Questions in the week beginning 15 December 2025, in rule 13.7.3, after the word "except" the words "to the extent to which the Presiding Officer considers that the questions are on the same or similar subject matter or" are inserted.

The Presiding Officer has selected the following amendment

<u>S6M-20068.1</u> Douglas Lumsden: Business Programme—As an amendment to motion S6M-20068 in the name of Graeme Dey (Business Programme), leave out from third "followed by Business Motions" to "3.10 pm Decision Time" and insert—

"followed by Scottish Government Debate: Energy Strategy

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followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time".

<u>S6M-20069</u> Graeme Dey: Stage 2 Timetable—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill at stage 2 be completed by 12 December 2025.

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

<u>S6M-20070</u> **Graeme Dey: Approval of SSI—**That the Parliament agrees that the Rural Support (Improvement) (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) (No. 2) Regulations 2025 [draft] be approved.

<u>S6M-20071</u> **Graeme Dey: Approval of SSI—**That the Parliament agrees that the Sheep Carcase (Classification and Price Reporting) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 [draft] be approved.

<u>S6M-20072</u> Graeme Dey: Committee Membership—That the Parliament agrees that—

Paul O'Kane be appointed as a member of the Education, Children and Young People Committee; and

Claire Baker be appointed to replace Michael Marra as a member of the Social Justice and Social Security Committee.

5:20 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business: Keith Brown: Scotland National Football Team Qualifies for the 2026 FIFA World Cup

S6M-19823 Keith Brown: Scotland National Football Team Qualifies for the 2026 FIFA World Cup—That the Parliament congratulates the Scotland national football team on qualifying for the 2026 FIFA World Cup; recognises that this marks Scotland's first appearance at the tournament in 28 years and represents a significant moment for Scottish sport; commends the team on its thrilling 4–2 win over Denmark at Hampden Park, which secured qualification; acknowledges the quality and determination shown throughout the match, including Scott McTominay's early goal from an overhead kick, Lawrence Shankland's restoration of Scotland's lead in the second half, and the dramatic stoppage-time goals from Kieran Tierney and Kenny McLean, which sealed the result; further acknowledges the contribution of head coach, Steve Clarke, and all the staff supporting the national side; pays tribute to the Tartan Army for its passionate and positive backing of the team at home and abroad; notes the wider social, cultural and sporting benefits that participation in major international events can bring to communities across Scotland; wishes the national team every success as preparations begin for the 2026 World Cup finals; notes the pride that this achievement has brought to communities across Clackmannanshire and Stirling, and recognises the work of local clubs and volunteers in supporting grassroots football.

Committee Meetings

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

Rural Affairs and Islands Committee 35th Meeting, 2025

The Committee will meet at 8:30AM in T4.40-CR2 The Fairfax Somerville Room

- 1. Work programme (In Private): The Committee will consider its work programme.
- 2. Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill: The Committee will consider the Bill at Stage 2 (Day 4).

Subject to Parliamentary Bureau approval of the Committee's request to meet at the same time as plenary business, the Committee will reconvene at 18:00 in Committee Room 4 to continue its consideration.

Criminal Justice Committee 34th Meeting, 2025

The Committee will meet at 9:00AM in T4.60-CR6 The Livingstone Room

1. **Prevention of Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee will take evidence on the Bill at Stage 1 from—

Dr Emma Forbes, National Lead for Domestic Abuse, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service:

Professor Liz Gilchrist, Criminal Law Committee, Law Society of Scotland;

Detective Superintendent Adam Brown, Police Scotland;

Glyn Lloyd, Chief Social Work Officer and Head of Children's and Community Justice Services Dundee City Council and Chair of Justice Standing Committee, Social Work Scotland.

- 2. **Prevention of Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Bill (In Private):** The Committee will consider the evidence it heard earlier under agenda item 1.
- 3. **Prostitution (Offences and Support) (Scotland) Bill (In Private):** The Committee will consider a draft Stage 1 report.
- 4. **Pre-Budget Scrutiny (In Private):** The Committee will consider a draft report on its Pre-Budget Scrutiny.
- 5. **Inquiry into the harm caused by substance misuse in Scottish prisons (In Private):** The Committee will consider a draft report.

Education, Children and Young People Committee 36th Meeting, 2025

The Committee will meet at 9:00AM in TG.40-CR1 The Burns Room

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1. Children (Care, Care Experience and Services Planning) (Scotland) Bill (In Private): The Committee will consider a draft Stage 1 report.

Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee 19th Meeting, 2025

The Committee will meet at 9:30AM in T1.40-CR5 The Smith Room

- 1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take item 4 in private.
- 2. **Consideration of continued petitions:** The Committee will consider the following continued petitions—

PE2099: Stop the proposed centralisation of specialist neonatal units in NHS Scotland. The Committee will take evidence from—

Jenni Minto, Minister for Public Health and Women's Health, Kirstie Campbell, Unit Head, Maternity, Neonatal and IVF Policy, and Danielle Le Poidevin, Neonatal Policy Manager, Scottish Government

and then consider-

PE1952: Specialist services for patients with autonomic dysfunction;

PE2031: Provide insulin pumps to all children with type 1 diabetes in Scotland;

PE2038: Commission suitable NHS services for people with hypermobile Ehlers-Danlos syndrome and hyper mobility spectrum disorders;

PE2080: Implement the recommended screening guidelines for people with Li Fraumeni Syndrome;

PE2086: Recognise the vaccine injured and offer appropriate treatment;

PE2125: End the pause on new NHS building projects and prioritise capital funding for primary care buildings;

PE1876: Accurately record the sex of people charged or convicted of rape or attempted rape;

PE1995: Improve support for victims of spiking;

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PE2081: Make chronic kidney disease a key clinical priority;

PE2102: Require anyone found guilty of rape or sexual assault to be registered as a sex offender;

PE2145: Bring in compulsory microchipping for cats in Scotland; and

PE2147: Create more women-only homeless accommodation that protects and meets the specific needs of women.

3. Consideration of new petitions: The Committee will consider the following new petitions—

PE2174: Stop council tax debt collection;

PE2179: Strengthen veto powers when assessing Business Improvement District proposals;

PE2184: Provide BID levy relief to charities and non-profit organisations;

PE2186: Review the Personal Footcare Guidance to ensure equity to access footcare services in rural and remote areas in Scotland;

PE2189: Remove legal protected status for gulls to help reduce their numbers in residential areas; and

PE2195: Establish a kindergarten stage in Scottish education.

4. **Consideration of evidence:** The Committee will consider the evidence it heard earlier under agenda item 2.

Economy and Fair Work Committee 35th Meeting, 2025

The Committee will meet at 9:30AM in T1.60-CR4 The Clerk Maxwell Room

1. **Digital Assets (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee will take evidence on the Bill at Stage 1 from—Greg McLardie, Co-Founder and CEO, Two Hands;

Professor Jill Robbie, Professor of Property Law and the Natural Environment, University of Glasgow:

Professor Burkhard Schafer, Co-investigator, DeCaDe.

2. **Digital Assets (Scotland) Bill (In Private):** The Committee will consider the evidence it heard earlier under agenda item 1.

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3. Work programme (In Private): The Committee will consider its work programme.

Public Audit Committee 33rd Meeting, 2025

The Committee will meet at 9:30AM in TG.60-CR3 The Fleming Room

- 1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take agenda items 4, 5, 6 and 7 in private.
- 2. **Improving care experience: Delivering The Promise:** The Committee will take evidence from—Neil Rennick, Director-General Education and Justice, Andrew Watson, Director for Children and Families, and Gavin Henderson, Deputy Director for Care Experience, Children's Services and the Promise, Scottish Government;

Fraser McKinlay, Chief Executive, The Promise Scotland;

David Anderson, Chair of the Oversight Board for Keeping the Promise;

Nicola Dickie, Director of People Policy and Fiona Whitelock, Policy Manager, The Promise, COSLA.

- 3. **The 2024/25 audit of NHS Tayside:** The Committee will take evidence from—
 Stephen Boyle, Auditor General for Scotland;
 Rachel Browne, Audit Director and Eva Thomas-Tudo, Audit Manager, Audit Scotland.
- 4. **The 2024/25 audit of NHS Tayside:** The Committee will consider the evidence heard at agenda item 3 and take further evidence from—

Stephen Boyle, Auditor General for Scotland;

Rachel Browne, Audit Director and Eva Thomas-Tudo, Audit Manager, Audit Scotland.

5. **Improving care experience: Delivering The Promise:** The Committee will consider the evidence heard at agenda item 2 and take further evidence from—

Stephen Boyle, Auditor General for Scotland;

Jillian Matthew, Senior Manager, and Claire Tennyson, Audit Manager, Audit Scotland.

- 6. **Improving care experience: Delivering The Promise:** The Committee will consider the evidence heard at agenda items 2 and 5 and agree any further action it wishes to take.
- 7. **The 2024/25 audit of NHS Tayside:** The Committee will consider the evidence heard at agenda items 3 and 4 and agree any further action it wishes to take.

Contact Information | Fios Conaltraidh

Contacts for Further Information

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Web site: https://www.parliament.scot

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Legislation Team	5277
Non-Government Bills Unit (NGBU)	6124

Committee web sites at: <a href="https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/comm

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