# Wednesday 19 March 2025 **Business Bulletin** *Iris Ghnothaichean*



## **Today's Business**

## Meeting of the Parliament

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 Labour Party Debate: Reforming Scotland's West Coast Ferries

**followed by** Scottish Labour Party Debate: Children's Rights and Temporary Accommodation

**followed by** Urgent Question: Meghan Gallacher: To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to the findings of the fatal accident inquiry for Lea Lamont, Ellie McCormick, and Mira-Belle Bosch, published on 14 March 2025, which suggest that the three child fatalities were avoidable.

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Approval of SSIs (if required)

5:20 pm Decision Time

**followed by** Members' Business — S6M-16705 Tess White: Addressing Sexual Violence in Scotland's Hospitals

# **Committee Meetings**

**9:00am** Education, Children and Young People Committee

9:00am Rural Affairs and Islands Committee

9:15am Economy and Fair Work Committee

9:30am Criminal Justice Committee

9:30am Public Audit Committee

**9:45am** Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee

# **Meeting of the Parliament**

#### 2:00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

#### 2:00 pm Portfolio Questions

#### Constitution, External Affairs and Culture, and Parliamentary Business

**1. Maurice Golden:** To ask the Scottish Government how it is maximising the impact of its International Development Fund in its partner countries, including any of those affected by high levels of indebtedness. (<u>S6O-04442</u>)

**2. Rachael Hamilton:** To ask the Scottish Government what steps Historic Environment Scotland is taking to ensure that women have access to a safe working environment. (<u>S6O-04443</u>)

**3. Pam Duncan-Glancy:** To ask the Scottish Government what it is doing to support cultural activities for children and young people in Glasgow. (<u>S6O-04444</u>)

4. Kenneth Gibson: [Withdrawn] (S6O-04445)

5. Stephen Kerr: [Not Lodged] (S6O-04446)

**6. Stuart McMillan:** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on what engagement it has had with the UK Government regarding re-joining the European Single Market. (S60-04447)

**7. Sue Webber:** To ask the Scottish Government how it is working with the heritage sector to conserve historic sites. (<u>S60-04448</u>)

**8. Ash Regan:** To ask the Scottish Government what work it has carried out in 2024-25 to further the case for Scottish independence. ( $\underline{S6O-04449}$ )

#### **Justice and Home Affairs**

**1. Oliver Mundell:** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to support the mental health of police officers and ensure that they have access to the appropriate specialist services.  $(\underline{S60-04450})$ 

**2. Annie Wells:** To ask the Scottish Government what community safety measures it plans to prevent antisocial behaviour, including improper needle disposal, in the area surrounding the Thistle drug consumption facility. (<u>S60-04451</u>)

**3. Finlay Carson:** To ask the Scottish Government what steps it is taking to tackle rural crime. (<u>S60-04452</u>)

**4. Douglas Ross:** To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the potential impact on victims of crime in Scotland, what discussions it has had with the UK Government regarding the time taken to determine applications made to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority. (<u>S6O-04453</u>)

**5. Brian Whittle:** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to ensure that the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service is sufficiently resourced to provide appropriate planning guidance or able to respond to planning consultations when required. (<u>S6O-04454</u>)

**6. Patrick Harvie:** To ask the Scottish Government how the criminal justice system applies its public health approach to reducing the harm caused by drug use.  $(\underline{S60-04455})$ 

**7. Willie Rennie:** To ask the Scottish Government whether it plans to review the Scottish Criminal Cases Review Commission. (<u>S6O-04456</u>)

**8. Maggie Chapman:** To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to reported claims that policing of pro-Palestinian rallies and demonstrations has been disproportionate and heavy-handed. (<u>S6O-04457</u>)

#### followed by Scottish Labour Party Debate: Reforming Scotland's West Coast Ferries

<u>S6M-16845</u> Claire Baker: Reforming Scotland's West Coast Ferries—That the Parliament deplores the continuing economic and social damage inflicted on Clyde and Hebrides communities through the Scottish Government's failure to provide adequate ferry services; calls on the Scottish Government to reconsider its decision to impose a 10 % increase in fares on Scottish Government funded ferry services, contrary to the recommendations of the delivery companies; is concerned that no Scottish yard has been selected to deliver any of the ferries in the Small Vessel Replacement Programme; believes that the governance structure for west coast ferry services has failed, and calls for the award of a new Clyde and Hebrides ferry contract to be accompanied by a fundamental reform of governance, which puts island communities and workers at the heart of decision making and accountability.

The Presiding Officer has selected the following amendments

S6M-16845.2 Fiona Hyslop: Reforming Scotland's West Coast Ferries—As an amendment to motion S6M-16845 in the name of Claire Baker (Reforming Scotland's West Coast Ferries), leave out from "deplores" to end and insert "recognises the challenges that have faced a number of island communities with ferry service disruptions but notes that CalMac crews delivered 95.8% of services in the last recorded contract year; welcomes the provision of over £530 million in 2025-26 for maintaining and improving ferry services, replacing vessels, upgrading ports and harbours, and investing further in low-carbon inter-island ferries, with at least £21 million to progress phase 1 of the Small Vessel Replacement Programme; acknowledges that the delivery of six new large vessels, providing fleet resilience, and the procurement of seven new small vessels, which is currently in the 10-day 'standstill period', and the replacement for the MV Lord of the Isles, will provide 37% of the total fleet with new vessels, helping to reduce emissions and create more sustainability, resilience and reliability for residents, businesses and communities; notes that public engagement is being undertaken in Orkney and Shetland to inform the procurement of two new freight vessels for the Northern Isles services; acknowledges the work underway to make a direct award for the next Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services contract, and the roundtable with all stakeholders, including the Ferries Community Board and trade unions, to collectively discuss ambitions for the contract, including putting public service delivery and accountable key performance indicators developed with communities at its heart, and agrees that delivery of the award will then provide the space and opportunity for more fundamental reform of governance."

<u>S6M-16845.1</u> Sue Webber: Reforming Scotland's West Coast Ferries—As an amendment to motion S6M-16845 in the name of Claire Baker (Reforming Scotland's West Coast Ferries), insert at end "; believes that the social and economic impact of ferry disruption is causing existential harm to Scotland's islands; shares the frustrations of Scotland's islanders and ferry passengers, who believe that their needs are not being prioritised by the Scottish Government; notes that the increasing maintenance repair bill for the ageing fleet has hit £98 million in the last decade, which compromises the ability to invest in new infrastructure and maintain affordable ticket prices; agrees with the Audit Scotland report that the five-year business plan for Ferguson Marine Port Glasgow was overly reliant and predicated on winning the Small Vessel Replacement Programme contract; is concerned with the repeated awarding of ferry-build contracts to numerous overseas shipyards whilst taxpayers in Scotland are funding a publicly owned yard on the Clyde; notes the

Scottish Government's plan to purchase Ardrossan Harbour and urges Scottish ministers to ensure that the much-needed infrastructure upgrades to the port that were promised are delivered in a timely and cost-effective manner, and calls on the Scottish Government to be clear about its long-term intentions for Ferguson Marine Port Glasgow, and the future of Scottish shipbuilding, in light of an apparent lack of faith in it shown to date."

# followed by Scottish Labour Party Debate: Children's Rights and Temporary Accommodation

S6M-16844 Mark Griffin: Children's Rights and Temporary Accommodation—That the Parliament notes the publication of In Their Own Words: Children's Experiences in Temporary Accommodation, a research publication commissioned by Shelter Scotland from De Montfort University and University College London; accepts the findings of the publication, which concludes that children in Scotland are adversely affected by the shocking conditions found in some forms of temporary accommodation; recognises that the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) provides children with rights to have their best interests considered when decisions about them are being taken, including the right to life and the ability to develop, the right to school, the right to protection from violence in all forms, and the right to play and rest; notes with concern that the report highlights a number of examples of these rights being breached; accepts that the use of hotel-like accommodation for children in temporary accommodation carries a high risk of breaching children's rights under the UNCRC; notes that amendments to the Housing (Scotland) Bill have been laid that would require relevant bodies to have regard to the rights of the child in dealing with cases of homelessness, and calls on the Scottish Government to ensure that children in Scotland are placed in safe and secure homes which take account of their rights under the UNCRC.

The Presiding Officer has selected the following amendments

<u>S6M-16844.3</u> Paul McLennan: Children's Rights and Temporary Accommodation—As an amendment to motion S6M-16844 in the name of Mark Griffin (Children's Rights and Temporary Accommodation), insert at end "; notes the actions taken to address the issues highlighted in the report, including the publication of the temporary accommodation standards framework and bringing forward the amendment to implement Awaab's Law in the Housing (Scotland) Bill, and welcomes that the number of children in temporary accommodation has reduced in 20 local authority areas."

<u>S6M-16844.2</u> Meghan Gallacher: Children's Rights and Temporary Accommodation—As an amendment to motion S6W-16844 in the name of Mark Griffin (Children's Rights and Temporary Accommodation), insert at end "; believes that the report underlines the urgent need for the Scottish Government to outline an action plan to address the housing emergency, and notes that the Housing (Scotland) Bill is a missed opportunity to encourage more investment and housebuilding in Scotland."

followed by Urgent Question: Meghan Gallacher: To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to the findings of the fatal accident inquiry for Lea Lamont, Ellie McCormick, and Mira-Belle Bosch, published on 14 March 2025, which suggest that the three child fatalities were avoidable.

#### followed by Business Motions

<u>S6M-16855</u> Jamie Hepburn on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: Business Programme— That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business-

Tuesday 25 March 2025

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

*followed by* Ministerial Statement: Scottish Government Response to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 2 Report

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Scotland - A Fair Trade Nation

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 26 March 2025

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

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

followed by Ministerial Statement: Secure Accommodation in Scotland - Capacity

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Land Reform (Scotland) Bill

followed by Financial Resolution: Land Reform (Scotland) Bill

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Approval of SSIs (if required)

5.30 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 27 March 2025

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: Net Zero and Energy, and Transport

*followed by* Ministerial Statement: Response to Fatal Accident Inquiries (Deaths in Custody) *followed by* Stage 1 Debate: Schools (Residential Outdoor Education) (Scotland) Bill

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.30 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 1 April 2025

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

*followed by* Stage 1 Debate: Criminal Justice Modernisation and Abusive Domestic Behaviour Reviews (Scotland) Bill

*followed by* Financial Resolution: Criminal Justice Modernisation and Abusive Domestic Behaviour Reviews (Scotland) Bill

followed by Committee Announcements

- followed by Business Motions
- followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions
- 5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 2 April 2025

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

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

followed by Scottish Government Business

#### followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Approval of SSIs (if required)

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 3 April 2025

- 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: Social Justice

*followed by* Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee and Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee Debate: The Aarhus Convention and Access to Environmental Justice

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 24 March 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.

<u>S6M-16856</u> Jamie Hepburn on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: Stage 2 Timetable—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Education (Scotland) Bill at stage 2 be completed by 9 May 2025.

#### followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

<u>S6M-16857</u> Jamie Hepburn on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: Approval of SSI—That the Parliament agrees that the National Bus Travel Concession Schemes (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Order 2025 [draft] be approved.

<u>S6M-16858</u> Jamie Hepburn on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: Approval of SSI—That the Parliament agrees that the Community Care (Personal Care and Nursing Care) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2025 [draft] be approved.

<u>S6M-16859</u> Jamie Hepburn on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: Approval of SSI—That the Parliament agrees that the Social Security (Up-rating) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 [draft] be approved.

<u>S6M-16860</u> Jamie Hepburn on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: Approval of SSI—That the Parliament agrees that the Social Security Up-rating (Scotland) Order 2025 [draft] be approved.

<u>S6M-16861</u> Jamie Hepburn on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: Designation of Lead Committee—That the Parliament agrees that the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the UEFA European Championship (Scotland) Bill at stage 1.

#### followed by Approval of SSIs (if required)

5:20 pm Decision Time

#### followed by Members' Business Debate on the subject of—

<u>S6M-16705</u> Tess White: Addressing Sexual Violence in Scotland's Hospitals—That the Parliament considers that single-sex spaces for women and girls across Scotland's public services are being eroded, with worrying implications for their rights and safety; acknowledges what it sees as the fundamental importance of the dignity, privacy and safety of women and girls in sanitary and changing facilities, as well as in hospital settings where women and children are often at their most vulnerable; highlights the Women's Rights Network Scotland report, *How safe are our Scottish hospitals?*, authored by Carolyn Brown and Mary Howden and published in March 2025, which found that, over a five-year period between 2019 and 2024, 276 sexual assaults and 12 rapes took place across 57 hospitals; considers that the actual figures will likely be much higher given that, it understands, data is not routinely kept by all Scottish hospitals; notes in particular that 22 sexual assaults and one rape reportedly took place in NHS Grampian over this period, while 17 sexual assaults and three rapes reportedly took place in NHS Tayside, with, it

understands, a high number occurring on hospital wards; believes that hospitals should be a place of safety for patients and staff, and notes the view that urgent action should be taken to address any sexual violence on the NHS estate, and further notes the view that such action should include the introduction of robust and transparent record keeping procedures to help inform preventative practices, as well as accommodating women on single-sex wards wherever possible and protecting single-sex spaces for biological female patients and staff. Committees | Comataidhean

# **Committee Meetings**

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

# Education, Children and Young People Committee 10th Meeting, 2025

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

1. University of Dundee: The Committee will take evidence from—

Professor Shane O'Neill, Interim Principal and Vice Chancellor, Tricia Bey, Acting Chair of Court, Professor Blair Grubb, Vice Principal (Education), and Helen Simpson, Interim Director of Finance, University of Dundee;

and then from-

Francesca Osowska, Chief Executive Officer, Richard Maconachie, Director of Finance, and Jacqui Brasted, Interim Director of Access, Learning and Outcomes, Scottish Funding Council.

2. **Evidence Session (in private):** The Committee will consider the evidence it heard earlier under agenda item 1

# Rural Affairs and Islands Committee 10th Meeting, 2025

The Committee will meet at 9:00 am in T4.40-CR2 The Fairfax Somerville Room

- 1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take items 6 and 7 in private.
- 2. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee will take evidence on the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002 Amendment Order 2025 (SSI 2025/draft) from—

Jim Fairlie, Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity, George Burgess, Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy, Aileen Bearhop, Food and Drink Division, and Mairead McCrossan, Lawyer, Scottish Government.

- 3. **Subordinate legislation:** Jim Fairlie, Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity to move— S6M-16490—That the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee recommends that the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002 Amendment Order 2025 be approved.
- 4. **Future agriculture policy:** The Committee will take evidence from— Jim Fairlie, Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity, George Burgess, Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy, Mandy Callaghan, Deputy Director, Agriculture and Land Transition, and Nick Downes, Deputy Director, Chief Digital and Data Office for Agriculture and the Rural Economy, Scottish Government.
- A climate transition for Scottish agriculture: The Committee will take evidence from— Dr Vera Eory, Reader, Scotland's Rural College; David McKay, Co-Director, Soil Association Scotland; Professor Dave Reay, University of Edinburgh; Dr Mike Robinson, Chief Executive, Royal Scottish Geographical Society.
- 6. **Future agriculture policy:** The Committee will consider the evidence heard earlier in the meeting.
- 7. **Climate transition for Scottish agriculture:** The Committee will consider the evidence heard earlier in the meeting.

#### **Economy and Fair Work Committee**

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#### 9th Meeting, 2025

The Committee will meet at 9:15 am in T1.60-CR4 The Clerk Maxwell Room

- 1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take items 4, 6 and 7 in private.
- 2. Employment Rights Bill (UK Parliament legislation): The Committee will take evidence on legislative consent memorandum LCM(S6-53) from—

Ivan McKee, Minister for Public Finance, Stephen Garland, Unit Head, Fair Work Division, Jo Mitchell, Procurement Policy Manager, and Megan Lawson, Lawyer, Scottish Government.

3. **New Deal for Business:** The Committee will take evidence from—

Kate Forbes, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic, Scottish Government;

Dr Poonam Malik, MBA, PhD, FRSE, FRSB, Co-chair, New Deal for Business Group (NDBG);

Judith Young, Deputy Director, Strategic Economic and Business Engagement Division, Scottish Government.

- 4. **Employment Rights Bill (UK Parliament legislation):** The Committee will consider the evidence heard earlier under agenda item 2.
- 5. **New Deal for Business (in private):** The Committee will consider the evidence it heard earlier under agenda item 3.
- 6. **Correspondence:** The Committee will consider correspondence.
- 7. Work programme: The Committee will consider its work programme.

#### Criminal Justice Committee 10th Meeting, 2025

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

1. Victims, Witnesses, and Justice Reform (Scotland) Bill: The Committee will consider the Bill at Stage 2 (Day 2).

#### Public Audit Committee 10th Meeting, 2025

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

- 1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take agenda items 3 and 4 in private.
- Additional support for learning: The Committee will take evidence from— Stephen Boyle, Auditor General for Scotland; Alison Cumming, Executive Director, Performance Audit and Best Value, and Yoshiko Gibo, Senior Auditor, Audit Scotland; Ruth MacLeod, Member, Accounts Commission.
- 3. **Additional support for learning:** The Committee will consider the evidence heard at agenda item 2 and take further evidence from—

Stephen Boyle, Auditor General for Scotland;

Alison Cumming, Executive Director, Performance Audit and Best Value, and Yoshiko Gibo, Senior Auditor, Audit Scotland;

Ruth MacLeod, Member, Accounts Commission.

4. **Additional support for learning:** The Committee will consider the evidence heard at agenda items 2 and 3 and agree any further action it wishes to take.

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#### **Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee 5th Meeting, 2025**

The Committee will meet at 9:45 am 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—

PE1859: Retain falconers' rights to practise upland falconry in Scotland;

PE1953: Review Education Support staff roles;

PE1976: Backdate council tax discounts for dementia to the date of GP certification; PE2021: Ensure the definition of protected animals in the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 applies to the sheep on St Kilda;

PE2028: Extend the concessionary bus travel scheme to include people seeking asylum in Scotland;

PE2074: Increase local government funding to help protect the vulnerable elderly population and prevent the closure of care homes;

PE2075: Prioritise local participation in planning decisions; and

PE2087: Pass a law making exercising a dog in a cemetery an offence.

3. **Consideration of new petitions:** The Committee will consider the following new petitions— PE2133: Expand ScotRail's Inter7City routes to include Dunfermline;

PE2134: Introduce legislation to make it a requirement for swift bricks to be installed in all new developments in Scotland, and include swifts in building surveys; and

PE2136: Make non-fatal strangulation a standalone criminal offence in Scotland.

4. Work programme: The Committee will consider its work programme.

Contact Information | Fios Conaltraidh

# **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:

https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/committees

#### **MSP** Details

https://www.parliament.scot/msps/current-and-previous-msps

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