

Wednesday 19 November 2025

Business Bulletin

Iris Ghnothaichean

Revised at 1:46pm



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: Deputy First Minister Responsibilities, Economy and Gaelic; Finance and Local Government

followed by Urgent Question: Douglas Ross: To ask the Scottish Government how it will recognise the Scottish Men's National Team qualifying for the World Cup for the first time since 1998.

followed by Scottish Labour Party Debate: Scotland's Skills System

followed by Scottish Labour Party Debate: Education

followed by Urgent Question: Liam Kerr: To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to reports that Professor Alexis Jay's comments on grooming gang inquiries were misrepresented during a debate on the Victims, Witnesses, and Justice Reform (Scotland) Bill.

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5:30 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business: Finlay Carson: The Growing Tide of Ongoing Challenges Facing Rural Communities

Committee Meetings

9:00am Economy and Fair Work Committee

9:00am Rural Affairs and Islands Committee

9:30am Criminal Justice Committee

9:30am Education, Children and Young People Committee

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

Portfolio Questions: The Presiding Officer has grouped the following questions: Deputy First Minister Responsibilities, Economy and Gaelic – Questions 5 and 7

Deputy First Minister Responsibilities, Economy and Gaelic

1. Marie McNair: To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to encourage businesses to implement the real Living Wage, in light of reports that Scotland's level of real Living Wage employers is, proportionately, five times that of the UK as a whole. ([S6O-05155](#))

2. Jamie Halcro Johnston: To ask the Scottish Government what economic assessment it has undertaken of the potential impact of proposed workers' camps in and around communities across the Highlands and Islands. ([S6O-05156](#))

3. Edward Mountain: To ask the Scottish Government how much in total has been paid from the public purse to Ferguson Marine since the award of the contracts for both the Glen Sannox and Glen Rosa. ([S6O-05157](#))

4. Richard Leonard: To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on its engagement with the Financial Conduct Authority and other organisations regarding the impact on policyholders of the withdrawal of the Family Protection Plan by C Mutual and Maiden Life Försäkrings. ([S6O-05158](#))

5. Kenneth Gibson: To ask the Scottish Government what engagement it has had with the UK Government regarding the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Pride in Place Programme. ([S6O-05159](#))

6. Keith Brown: To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on progress with delivery of the Stirling and Clackmannanshire City Region Deal. ([S6O-05160](#))

7. Clare Haughey: To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to the UK Government's Pride in Place Programme in relation to its impact on devolved issues. ([S6O-05161](#))

8. Pauline McNeill: To ask the Scottish Government what action it has taken to improve Glasgow City's regional economy, in light of the economic effect of the COVID-19 lockdown on the city. ([S6O-05162](#))

Finance and Local Government

1. Maurice Golden: To ask the Scottish Government how the new Scottish Aggregates Tax, due to be introduced in April 2026, will contribute to creating a circular economy. ([S6O-05163](#))

2. Fulton MacGregor: To ask the Scottish Government what support is being provided to groups and people to make use of the Community Asset Transfer Scheme. ([S6O-05164](#))

3. Gordon MacDonald: To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on its engagement with the UK Government regarding the upcoming UK Budget and any implications for Scotland's public finances. ([S6O-05165](#))

4. Audrey Nicoll: To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide a response to COSLA's request for additional funding to support local authorities in the forthcoming Budget. ([S6O-05166](#))

5. Karen Adam: To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it has made of the impact of UK fiscal decisions on the Scottish Budget and the certainty of local government funding. ([S6O-05167](#))

6. James Dornan: [Withdrawn] ([S6O-05168](#))

7. Liz Smith: To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it has made of the Scottish Fiscal Commission's recently published *Scottish median incomes fact sheet*. ([S6O-05169](#))

8. Carol Mochan: To ask the Scottish Government how much it has allocated in its Budget for the improvement of road safety on the A77 trunk road. ([S6O-05170](#))

followed by Urgent Question: Douglas Ross: To ask the Scottish Government how it will recognise the Scottish Men's National Team qualifying for the World Cup for the first time since 1998.

followed by Scottish Labour Party Debate: Scotland's Skills System

[S6M-19756](#) Daniel Johnson: Scotland's Skills System—That the Parliament believes that Scotland's skills system is letting down young people and holding back economic growth, and further believes that there needs to be a new partnership between education and industry, with better careers advice in schools central to it, and new Scottish industrial pathways to link school subjects to future careers, guaranteed industrial placements for secondary school pupils including in industry and a clearing system for apprenticeships, so that good candidates do not fall out of the system.

The Presiding Officer has selected the following amendments

[S6M-19756.2](#) Ben Macpherson: Scotland's Skills System—As an amendment to motion S6M-19756 in the name of Daniel Johnson (Scotland's Skills System), leave out from first "believes" to end and insert "agrees that there needs to be greater partnership between education and industry, with better careers advice in schools central to it, and clear and coherent Scottish pathways to link school and college courses to future careers, improved placements for secondary school pupils, and better information on career choices, job prospects and earnings, alongside an ongoing commitment to apprenticeships; acknowledges the significant progress made over the years to deliver a record number of apprentices in training at the end of 2024-25; notes that, despite the impact of Brexit and a failing UK economic model, resulting in workforce challenges and barriers to trade, Scotland is the best performing part of the UK for inward investment outside of London, has a lower unemployment rate than the UK, and has near record positive destinations, and agrees that independence offers the best opportunity for Scotland's economy to grow and create wealth and prosperity for all."

[S6M-19756.1](#) Murdo Fraser: Scotland's Skills System—As an amendment to motion S6M-19756 in the name of Daniel Johnson (Scotland's Skills System), leave out from ", with better" to end and insert "; believes that this must be underpinned by a demand-led skills system that equips young people with the qualifications that employers need to grow Scotland's economy; notes that the Scottish National Party administration has failed to pass on over £170 million of Apprenticeship Levy funding and has provided around 10,000 fewer apprenticeship places than learning providers requested, contributing to a widening skills gap in key sectors including hospitality, construction, engineering and care; further notes that colleges have faced a 20% real-terms funding cut, leading to job losses, falling student numbers and financial instability, and calls for urgent reform to invest in colleges, fix Scotland's broken apprenticeship system, address skills shortages and allow local employers to shape training that matches their workforce needs."

followed by Scottish Labour Party Debate: Education

[S6M-19754](#) Pam Duncan-Glancy: Education—That the Parliament recognises that pupils and staff are being failed by the deteriorating learning and working environment in Scottish schools, overseen by the Scottish National Party administration.

Today's Business <i>Gnothaichean an-diugh</i>	Future Business <i>Gnothaichean ri teachd</i>	Motions & Questions <i>Gluasadan agus Ceistean</i>	Legislation <i>Reachdas</i>	Other <i>Eile</i>
Chamber Seòmar				

The Presiding Officer has selected the following amendments

S6M-19754.2 Jenny Gilruth: Education—As an amendment to motion S6M-19754 in the name of Pam Duncan-Glancy (Education), leave out from "that pupils" to end and insert "the challenges in Scotland's schools post-COVID-19 pandemic, particularly with attendance and an increase in additional support needs (ASN); welcomes the additional funding agreed to in the Budget for 2025-26 to support outcomes for children with ASN, and to support and enhance the ASN workforce; acknowledges the key role that staff and teachers play to support children to succeed; welcomes the agreement last week, which ensures that Scotland's teachers remain the highest paid in the UK, with an uplift of 7.5% over two years; remains committed to undertaking further work to reduce teacher workload, which sits alongside the commitment to reduce class contact time, and agrees to recognise and celebrate the successes of Scotland's young people."

S6M-19754.1 Miles Briggs: Education—As an amendment to motion S6M-19754 in the name of Pam Duncan-Glancy (Education), insert at end “; notes with deep concern the decline in standards and increasing pupil violence, which are intensifying pressures on teachers and support staff; believes that these trends reflect years of underinvestment and a failure to provide the support and resources needed to maintain safe and effective learning environments, and calls on the Scottish Government to deliver urgent action to raise attainment, improve discipline in classrooms and support teachers to deliver the high-quality education that every young person in Scotland deserves.”

followed by Urgent Question: Liam Kerr: To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to reports that Professor Alexis Jay's comments on grooming gang inquiries were misrepresented during a debate on the Victims, Witnesses, and Justice Reform (Scotland) Bill.

followed by Business Motions

S6M-19810 Graeme Dey: Business Programme—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 25 November 2025

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Children (Withdrawal from Religious Education and Amendment of UNCRC Compatibility Duty) (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 26 November 2025

Today's Business <i>Gnothaichean an-diugh</i>	Future Business <i>Gnothaichean ri teachd</i>	Motions & Questions <i>Gluasadan agus Ceistean</i>	Legislation <i>Reachdas</i>	Other <i>Eile</i>
Chamber Seòmar				

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

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

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 27 November 2025

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

followed by Members' Business

2.15 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.15 pm Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body Questions

followed by Portfolio Questions: Social Justice and Housing

followed by Scottish Government Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 2 December 2025

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions

followed by Scottish Government Business

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Today's Business <i>Gnothaichean an-diugh</i>	Future Business <i>Gnothaichean ri teachd</i>	Motions & Questions <i>Glusadan agus Ceistean</i>	Legislation <i>Reachdas</i>	Other <i>Eile</i>
Chamber Seòmar				

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 3 December 2025

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 Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.10 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 4 December 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: Education and Skills

followed by Education, Children and Young People Committee Debate: Widening Access to Higher Education

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 November 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.

[S6M-19811](#) Graeme Dey: Stage 1 Timetable—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Building Safety Levy (Scotland) Bill at stage 1 be completed by 9 January 2026.

[S6M-19812](#) Graeme Dey: Stage 1 Timetable—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Contract (Formation and Remedies) (Scotland) Bill at stage 1 be completed by 19 December 2025.

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

S6M-19813 Graeme Dey: Substitution on Committees—That the Parliament agrees that Colin Beattie be appointed to replace Collette Stevenson as the Scottish National Party substitute on the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee.

5:30 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business: Finlay Carson: The Growing Tide of Ongoing Challenges Facing Rural Communities

Debate on the subject of—

S6M-19548 Finlay Carson: The Growing Tide of Ongoing Challenges Facing Rural Communities—That the Parliament notes the reported ongoing challenges faced by rural communities, including those in Stranraer, Wigtownshire and across Dumfries and Galloway, in accessing timely and high-quality healthcare; believes that people in these areas often experience longer waits for GP appointments, hospital treatment and emergency services, compared with the national average; expresses particular concern about the reported current shortage of GPs in Wigtownshire, which is placing additional strain on practices and impacting patient care; acknowledges the additional pressures on NHS boards and staff in delivering care across large geographic areas; notes the view that every person, regardless of where they live, should have equal access to essential health services; further notes the calls on the Scottish Government to set out clear plans to tackle rural health inequalities, including measures to recruit and retain healthcare professionals, including what it sees as much-needed midwives and dentists, address GP shortages, improve ambulance response times and expand diagnostic and treatment capacity in Galloway Community Hospital and other community health hubs, and notes the calls for both an increased provision of community beds and step-down facilities to reduce delayed discharge and enable care closer to home, and for the Scottish Government to work with communities to ensure that future health policy reflects the needs of rural Scotland.

Committee Meetings

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

Economy and Fair Work Committee 32nd Meeting, 2025

The Committee will meet at 9:00AM in T1.60-CR4 The Clerk Maxwell Room

1. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee will take evidence on the Public Procurement (Iraq Free Trade Agreement) (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 from—
Ivan McKee, Minister for Public Finance, Alasdair Hamilton, Procurement Policy Portfolio Manager, and Jess Gray, Solicitor, Scottish Government.
2. **Subordinate legislation:** The Minister for Public Finance to move—S6M-19302—That the Economy and Fair Work Committee recommends that the Public Procurement (Iraq Free Trade Agreement) (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 be approved.
3. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee will take evidence on the Cross-Border Public Procurement (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 from—
Ivan McKee, Minister for Public Finance, Alasdair Hamilton, Procurement Policy Portfolio Manager, and Jess Gray, Solicitor, Scottish Government.
4. **Subordinate legislation:** The Minister for Public Finance to move—S6M-19428—That the Economy and Fair Work Committee recommends that the Cross-Border Public Procurement (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 be approved.
5. **The economic potential of artificial intelligence:** The Committee will take evidence from—
Kayla-Megan Burns, Board Member, Royal Scottish National Orchestra;
Dex Hunter-Torricke, Strategic Communications Adviser - Technology and AI.
and then from—
Steve Aitken, Founder, Intelligent Plant;
Leo Fakhrul, CEO, XYNQ;
Rich Wilson, CEO & Co-Founder, Giggled.ai.
6. **Evidence Session (In Private):** The Committee will consider the evidence heard earlier under agenda item 5.
7. **Work programme (In Private):** The Committee will consider its work programme.

Rural Affairs and Islands Committee 32nd Meeting, 2025

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

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

Criminal Justice Committee

31st Meeting, 2025

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

1. **Prostitution (Offences and Support) (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee will take evidence on the Bill at Stage 1 from—
Siobhian Brown, Minister for Victims and Community Safety, Anna Donald, Deputy Director, Criminal Justice Division, and Jeff Gibbons, Violence Against Women and Girls Unit Head, Scottish Government.
2. **Pre-Budget Scrutiny:** The Committee will take evidence as part of its Pre-Budget Scrutiny from—
Teresa Medhurst, Chief Executive, Linda Pollock, Deputy Chief Executive, and Amy McDonald, Director of Finance, Scottish Prison Service.
3. **Prostitution (Offences and Support) (Scotland) Bill (In Private):** The Committee will consider the evidence it heard earlier under agenda item 1.
4. **Pre-Budget Scrutiny (In Private):** The Committee will consider the evidence it heard earlier under agenda item 2.

Education, Children and Young People Committee

33rd Meeting, 2025

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

1. **Declaration of interests:** Maggie Chapman will be invited to declare any relevant interests.
2. **Schools (Residential Outdoor Education) (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee will consider the Bill at Stage 2.
3. **Work programme (In Private):** The Committee will consider its work programme.

Contacts for Further Information

All telephone numbers 0131 348 XXXX

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

General Enquiries	5000
Chamber Desk (Motions and Questions)	5199
Parliamentary Business Team (Chamber, Parliamentary Bureau)	5180
Legislation Team	5277
Non-Government Bills Unit (NGBU)	6124

Committee web sites at: <https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/committees>

MSP Details at: <https://www.parliament.scot/msps/current-and-previous-msps>

© Parliamentary copyright. Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body

Information on the Scottish Parliament's copyright policy can be found on the website - <https://www.parliament.scot> or by contacting Public Information on 0131 348 5000

Published in Scotland by the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body

All documents are available on the Scottish Parliament website at: <https://www.parliament.scot>

For information on the Scottish Parliament contact Public Information on:

Telephone: 0131 348 5000 or 0800 092 7500