

Business Bulletin

Iris Ghnothaichean



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Chamber Desk Announcement

Chamber Desk Arrangements during the October Recess

During the October recess from 11 to 26 October 2025, the Chamber Desk will be open from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm, Monday to Thursday and 10.00 am to 3.30 pm on a Friday. Normal opening arrangements will resume on Monday 27 October.

Portfolio Questions and General Questions on 29 and 30 October 2025

Members are advised that the deadline for submitting names for Portfolio and General Questions on 29 and 30 October is 12 noon on Monday 20 October. Members who are selected will be advised by email on that day.

Members selected will have until 12 noon on Wednesday 22 October to submit their questions. The submitted questions will appear in the Business Bulletin on Monday 27 October.

The Portfolios will be Deputy First Minister Responsibilities, Economy and Gaelic, and Finance and Local Government on Wednesday 29 October, and Climate Action and Energy, and Transport on Thursday 30 October.

Today's Business

Meeting of the Parliament

11:40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11:40 am General Questions

12:00 pm First Minister's Questions

followed by Members' Business — S6M-18953 Ariane Burgess: Investing in Rail to Unlock the Wealth and Economic Potential of the Highlands

2:30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2:30 pm Portfolio Grouping: Social Justice and Housing – Questions 5 and 7.

followed by Ministerial Statement: Scotland's Prison Population

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Dog Theft (Scotland) Bill

followed by Urgent Question: Stephen Kerr: To ask the Scottish Government what urgent action it will take to address the reported crisis in the college sector, in light of the

findings in the Audit Scotland publication, Scotland's colleges 2025.

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5:00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business — S6M-18736 Fulton MacGregor: Commending Give Blood 4 Good's Efforts to Secure Scotland's Blood Supply

Committee Meetings

9:00am Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee

9:00am Criminal Justice Committee, Health, Social Care and Sport Committee, Social Justice and Social Security Committee

9:30am Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

Meeting of the Parliament

11:40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11:40 am General Questions

- 1. Clare Haughey:** To ask the Scottish Government what engagement it has had with the UK Government regarding the closure of any Jobcentres in Scotland. ([S6O-05010](#))
- 2. Maurice Golden:** To ask the Scottish Government what the current state of readiness is for the upcoming ban on biodegradable municipal waste to landfill. ([S6O-05011](#))
- 3. David Torrance:** To ask the Scottish Government how it will ensure that Scotland remains at the forefront of hydrogen development and deployment. ([S6O-05012](#))
- 4. Gordon MacDonald:** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide further details of the steps that it is taking to support innovation and entrepreneurship in Scotland. ([S6O-05013](#))
- 5. Liam McArthur:** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will commit to reintroducing the "shared cabin" policy as a condition of the next Northern Isles Ferry Services contract. ([S6O-05014](#))
- 6. Bob Doris:** To ask the Scottish Government what discussions the climate action secretary has had with ministerial colleagues regarding how to encourage homeowners to decarbonise their properties as part of Scotland's ambition to achieve net zero by 2045. ([S6O-05015](#))
- 7. Stephen Kerr:** To ask the Scottish Government what measures it has in place to ensure that public body officials do not misuse their position for personal gain. ([S6O-05016](#))
- 8. Willie Rennie:** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will change the college and university funding frameworks to reflect the hybrid nature of Scotland's Rural College, which has both higher and further education provision. ([S6O-05017](#))

12:00 pm First Minister's Questions

- 1. Russell Findlay:** Question to be taken in Chamber. ([S6F-04341](#))
- 2. Anas Sarwar:** Question to be taken in Chamber. ([S6F-04342](#))
- 3. Ross Greer:** Question to be taken in Chamber. ([S6F-04343](#))
- 4. Gordon MacDonald:** To ask the First Minister, regarding the potential impact on marginalised communities and public services in Scotland, what the Scottish Government's response is to UK Government proposals to introduce a mandatory digital ID scheme. ([S6F-04356](#))
- 5. Liz Smith:** To ask the First Minister what the Scottish Government's position is on whether NHS Tayside should exempt legal claims by former patients of Professor Sam Eljamel from the three-year time-bar which is currently in place. ([S6F-04345](#))
- 6. Jackie Baillie:** To ask the First Minister what the Scottish Government's response is to reported comments from the chair of the British Medical Association in Scotland, that Scotland's NHS is "dying before our eyes". ([S6F-04352](#))

followed by Members' Business
Debate on the subject of—

S6M-18953 Ariane Burgess: Investing in Rail to Unlock the Wealth and Economic Potential of the Highlands

That the Parliament believes that the Highland Main Line is a crucial transport link supporting tourism, freight transport and many vibrant communities; understands with concern that, despite this, two thirds of the 118-mile line, which it considers to be a critical route, remains single track and diesel operated, resulting in journey times that are reportedly similar to those from the Victorian era; believes that this results in frequent delays and causes limited capacity for passengers and freight; notes what it sees as the economic opportunities that can be offered by expanding and improving the nation's rail network, including connecting communities and boosting sustainable freight capacity to support major industries, such as the whisky and forestry sectors in the Highlands; considers that the work of the Highland Main Line Community Rail Partnership has been fantastic in improving the rail network by finding uses for redundant buildings and supporting passenger services; acknowledges the work of Network Rail in exploring additional passing loops, and notes the view that the line should be electrified and dualled to develop more reliable and environmentally sustainable rail transport for communities in the Highlands and neighbouring regions, as well as inter-city commuters and tourists visiting the north of mainland Scotland.

2:30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2:30 pm Portfolio Grouping: Social Justice and Housing – Questions 5 and 7.

Social Justice and Housing

1. Craig Hoy: To ask the Scottish Government what discussions the social justice secretary has had with ministerial colleagues regarding how to manage any growing funding gap created by higher spending on devolved benefits. ([S6O-05018](#))

2. Kenneth Gibson: To ask the Scottish Government, as part of the work of its Ministerial Population Taskforce, what action it will undertake to support people to have larger families, should they want more children. ([S6O-05019](#))

3. Paul Sweeney: To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update regarding the work that Social Security Scotland is engaging in to support veterans in accessing its services. ([S6O-05020](#))

4. Stuart McMillan: [Withdrawn] ([S6O-05021](#))

5. Mark Ruskell: To ask the Scottish Government when it last met with residents in Tillicoultry who were evacuated from their homes two years ago when reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete was discovered. ([S6O-05022](#))

6. Alex Rowley: To ask the Scottish Government what the key barriers are to tackling Scotland's housing emergency. ([S6O-05023](#))

7. Keith Brown: To ask the Scottish Government when the housing secretary will meet with those constituents from Tillicoultry affected by reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete, following the commitment to do so that was made in early August. ([S6O-05024](#))

8. Douglas Lumsden: To ask the Scottish Government how much of the £20 million Housing Infrastructure Fund that was launched in 2016, as part of the 10-year Aberdeen City Region Deal, has been spent. ([S6O-05025](#))

followed by Ministerial Statement: Scotland's Prison Population

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				

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Dog Theft (Scotland) Bill

[S6M-19121](#) Maurice Golden: Dog Theft (Scotland) Bill—That the Parliament agrees to the general principles of the Dog Theft (Scotland) Bill.

followed by Urgent Question: Stephen Kerr: To ask the Scottish Government what urgent action it will take to address the reported crisis in the college sector, in light of the findings in the Audit Scotland publication, Scotland's colleges 2025.

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5:00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business
Debate on the subject of—

[S6M-18736](#) Fulton MacGregor: Commending Give Blood 4 Good's Efforts to Secure Scotland's Blood Supply—That the Parliament commends the charitable work of Give Blood 4 Good (GB4G), which was founded in 2019 in memory of Patrick Smith, an Edinburgh student who passed away and who was a passionate advocate for blood donation; understands that GB4G was established to address a significant gap in the number of young people becoming blood donors, and to encourage a new generation to step forward; recognises what it sees as the effectiveness of its educational initiatives, including the Young Ambassador Programme for high school students, which uses e-learning and hands-on activities to inform and engage students; believes that this programme not only educates young people on the lifesaving importance of blood donation but also provides them with transferable skills that can be used on CVs and university applications; understands that each blood donation has the potential to save or improve up to three lives; welcomes the charity's work, and recognises the importance of blood donation in Coatbridge and Chryston and across Scotland.

Committee Meetings

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

Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee 25th Meeting, 2025

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

- Transparency of Intergovernmental activity and its implications for parliamentary scrutiny:** The Committee will take evidence from—
Professor Thomas Horsley, Professor of Law, University of Liverpool;
Professor Nicola McEwen, Professor of Public Policy, University of Glasgow;
Professor Colin Reid, Professor of Public and Environmental Law, University of Dundee;
David Thomson, Chief Executive, Food and Drink Federation Scotland;
Dr Paul Anderson, Senior Lecturer in International Relations and Politics, Liverpool John Moores University.

Criminal Justice Committee 26th Meeting, 2025 (Session 6), Health, Social Care and Sport Committee 26th Meeting, 2025 (Session 6), Social Justice and Social Security Committee 25th Meeting, 2025 (Session 6) 2 October 2025

The Committees will meet at 9:00 am in the Fairfax Somerville Room (CR2).

- Decision on taking business in private:** The Committees will decide whether to take item 3 in private.
- Reducing drug deaths in Scotland and tackling problem drug use:** The Committees will take evidence from—
Dr Saket Priyadarshi, Associate Medical Director and Senior Medical Officer, Glasgow Alcohol and Drug Recovery Services;
Kelda Gaffney, Interim Assistant Chief Officer, Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership;
Tricia Fort, Chair, Calton Community Council;
Steve Baxter, Corporate Security and Investigations Manager, Wm Morrison Supermarkets Limited.
and then from—
Maree Todd, Minister for Drugs & Alcohol Policy and Sport, and Maggie Page, Unit Head for Drugs Strategy, Scottish Government;
Dr Tara Shivaji, Consultant in Public Health Medicine - Drugs, Alcohol, Public Health Scotland.
- Reducing drug deaths in Scotland and tackling problem drug use:** The Committees will review the evidence heard earlier in the meeting and consider their approach for the legacy paper.

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee 17th Meeting, 2025

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

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>
Committees Comataidhean				

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take item 6 in private.
2. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee will take evidence on the Scottish Parliament (Disqualification of Councillors) Regulations 2025 [draft], the Scottish Parliament (Disqualification of Members of the House of Commons) Regulations 2025 [draft], and the Scottish Parliament (Disqualification of Members of the House of Lords) Regulations 2025 [draft] from—
Graeme Dey, Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans, Ailsa McKeever, Parliament and Legislation Unit, Iain Hockehull, Head of Elections Team, and Jordan McGrory, Legal Directorate, Scottish Government.
3. **Subordinate legislation:** Graeme Dey, Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans to move—S6M-18743—That the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee recommends that the Scottish Parliament (Disqualification of Members of the House of Commons) Regulations 2025 be approved.
4. **Subordinate legislation:** Graeme Dey, Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans to move—S6M-18744—That the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee recommends that the Scottish Parliament (Disqualification of Members of the House of Lords) Regulations 2025 be approved.
5. **Subordinate legislation:** Graeme Dey, Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans to move—S6M-18745—That the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee recommends that the Scottish Parliament (Disqualification of Councillors) Regulations 2025 be approved.
6. **Consideration of guidance:** The Committee will consider guidance on legislative consent.

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)	5187
Legislation Team	5277
Non-Government Bills Unit (NGBU)	6124

Committee web sites at:

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

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MSP Details

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

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