

Wednesday 28 January 2026

Business Bulletin

Iris Ghnothaichean

Revised at 4:51pm



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Today's Business

Subject to the Parliament's agreement of S6M-20599, today's business will be as follows:

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: The Role of Political Decision Making in NHS Scandals

followed by First Minister's Statement: Update on the MV Bella-1

followed by Motion on Legislative Consent: Sustainable Aviation Fuel Bill – UK Legislation

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

10:00 pm Decision Time

Committee Meetings

9:00am Rural Affairs and Islands Committee

9:30am Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee

9:30am Economy and Fair Work Committee

9:30am Education, Children and Young People Committee

9:30am Public Audit Committee

10:00am Criminal Justice Committee

Meeting of the Parliament

Subject to the Parliament's agreement of S6M-20599, today's business will be as follows:

2:00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

[S6M-20599](#) Graeme Dey: Revision to Business Programme—That the Parliament agrees to the following revisions to the programme of business for Wednesday 28 January 2026—

after

followed by Scottish Labour Party Debate: The Role of Political Decision Making in NHS Scandals

insert

followed by First Minister's Statement: Update on the MV Bella-1

delete

9.30 pm Decision Time

and insert

10.00 pm Decision Time

2:00 pm Portfolio Questions: Constitution, External Affairs and Culture, and Parliamentary Business; Justice and Home Affairs

Constitution, External Affairs and Culture, and Parliamentary Business

1. Fulton MacGregor: To ask the Scottish Government what support it provides to the Outdoor Arts, Circus and Spectacle sector. ([S6O-05419](#))

2. Tess White: To ask the Scottish Government how it ensures value for money when allocating funding within the Constitution, External Affairs and Culture portfolio. ([S6O-05420](#))

3. Brian Whittle: To ask the Scottish Government what discussions the Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture has had with ministerial colleagues regarding how to ensure that Scotland maximises the cultural legacy benefits of the 2026 Summer of Sport. ([S6O-05421](#))

4. Liam Kerr: To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on whether the five National Performing Companies are essential infrastructure investment and whether the funding that it provides to them is sufficient. ([S6O-05422](#))

5. Rachael Hamilton: To ask the Scottish Government whether it will propose the scheduling of time for a ministerial statement on the written case for the Scottish Ministers and Lord Advocate in the judicial review of the Scottish Prison Service policy for the management of transgender people in custody, including how many times women's rights are mentioned. ([S6O-05423](#))

6. John Mason: To ask the Scottish Government what information it holds on the diversity and socio-economic background of audiences attending performances by the National Performing Companies. ([S6O-05424](#))

7. Gordon MacDonald: To ask the Scottish Government what recent engagement it has had with the Arctic Circle Assembly. ([S6O-05425](#))

8. Richard Leonard: To ask the Scottish Government when it last met the United States Consul General in Edinburgh to discuss Scotland's international strategy. ([S6O-05426](#))

Justice and Home Affairs

1. Willie Coffey: To ask the Scottish Government how its draft Budget 2026-27 will support community justice services. ([S6O-05427](#))

2. Finlay Carson: To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it has made of access to justice services in rural areas. ([S6O-05428](#))

3. Rona Mackay: To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on the current occupancy levels and total operational capacity across the Women's Community Custody Unit estate. ([S6O-05429](#))

4. Annabelle Ewing: To ask the Scottish Government when the Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs last met with For Women Scotland to discuss the protection of women's sex-based rights. ([S6O-05430](#))

5. Emma Roddick: To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on the construction and operational timeline for the new HMP Highland. ([S6O-05431](#))

6. Edward Mountain: To ask the Scottish Government what additional resources are being provided to Police Scotland in relation to asylum seekers being housed at Cameron Barracks in Inverness. ([S6O-05432](#))

7. Ruth Maguire: To ask the Scottish Government for what reason the prison estate is segregated by sex. ([S6O-05433](#))

8. Evelyn Tweed: To ask the Scottish Government how its draft Budget 2026-27 supports the prevention of gender-based violence. ([S6O-05434](#))

followed by Scottish Labour Party Debate: The Role of Political Decision Making in NHS Scandals

[S6M-20561](#) Anas Sarwar: The Role of Political Decision Making in NHS Scandals—That the Parliament condemns the culture of secrecy and cover-up that has hidden the truth from patients, families and campaigners and denied them justice in many NHS scandals in Scotland in recent years; recognises that, as the Scottish Hospitals Inquiry draws to a close, many serious questions remain regarding the decision-making process and the role of the Scottish Government; considers that political decision making should be considered by the inquiry, and calls for the Scottish Ministers to authorise the immediate full disclosure and preservation of all communications connected to the contaminated water and inadequate ventilation system and the premature opening of the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, as well as any subsequent communications relating to the handling of the infection and its cover-up.

The Presiding Officer has selected the following amendments

[S6M-20561.1](#) Neil Gray: The Role of Political Decision Making in NHS Scandals—As an amendment to motion [S6M-20561](#) in the name of Anas Sarwar (The Role of Political Decision Making in NHS Scandals), leave out from "condemns" to end and insert "pays tribute to the brave patients, families and whistleblowers who have campaigned tirelessly for justice in the Scottish Hospitals Inquiry; recognises the pain, trauma and grief faced by patients and their families at the heart of this inquiry, and notes that the inquiry was established in 2019 to ensure that every individual impacted is able to get the truth that they deserve; notes the fundamental importance of the independence of inquiries, which are enshrined in legislation, under the control of an independent chair, and which operate transparently, reaching conclusions that are not to be influenced by ministers or other vested

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				

interests, and agrees, therefore, that the independent Scottish Hospitals Inquiry Chair must be given the time and space to consider all the available evidence.”

S6M-20561.2 Brian Whittle: The Role of Political Decision Making in NHS Scandals—As an amendment to motion S6M-20561 in the name of Anas Sarwar (The Role of Political Decision Making in NHS Scandals), insert at end “; notes with concern the impact on patients, staff and others resulting from the ongoing questions about the safety of the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital; calls on the Scottish Government to provide clear and explicit guarantees to the public that any issues raised by patients, families and whistleblowers are listened to and fully investigated; believes that the repeated lack of candour by both NHS boards and the Scottish Government in respect of the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital and other scandals is unacceptable; further believes that this lack of openness has placed a greater burden on patients, families and NHS staff and contributed to a growing loss of public trust, and calls, therefore, on Nicola Sturgeon to request to make a personal statement, with questions and answers, to the Scottish Parliament, given her role as Cabinet Secretary for Health and First Minister during the construction and opening of the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital.”

S6M-20561.3 Gillian Mackay: The Role of Political Decision Making in NHS Scandals—As an amendment to motion S6M-20561 in the name of Anas Sarwar (The Role of Political Decision Making in NHS Scandals), insert at end “; acknowledges that recent revelations surrounding the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital will have been distressing for patients, their families and staff; understands that this could create uncertainty and fear regarding the safety of Scotland's hospitals and negatively impact staff morale; recognises that patient privacy has to be given the greatest consideration in the publication of any materials, and calls for the Scottish Government to outline how it will urgently restore confidence into the services delivered by NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde.”

followed by First Minister’s Statement: Update on the MV Bella-1

followed by Motion on Legislative Consent: Sustainable Aviation Fuel Bill – UK Legislation

S6M-20550 Jim Fairlie: Sustainable Aviation Fuel Bill - UK Legislation—That the Parliament agrees that the relevant provisions of the Sustainable Aviation Fuel Bill, introduced in the House of Commons on 14 May 2025, and subsequently amended, relating to clauses 1 to 5, 10, 11(2) to 11(5), 12 to 20 and the schedule, so far as these matters fall within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament and alter the executive competence of the Scottish Ministers, should be considered by the UK Parliament.

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill

S6M-20549 Gillian Martin: Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill—That the Parliament agrees that the Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill be passed.

followed by Business Motions

S6M-20569 Graeme Dey: Business Programme—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 3 February 2026

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions

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 Stage 1 Debate: Prostitution (Offences and Support) (Scotland) Bill

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Desecration of War Memorials (Scotland) Bill

followed by Motion on Legislative Consent: Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill – UK Legislation

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.15 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 4 February 2026

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 Business

followed by Motion on Reconsideration of a Bill: European Charter of Local Self-Government (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.40 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 5 February 2026

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

followed by Members' Business

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Climate Action and Energy, and Transport

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Ecocide (Scotland) Bill

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Non-surgical Procedures and Functions of Medical Reviewers (Scotland) Bill

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 Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 10 February 2026

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Community Wealth Building (Scotland) Bill

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

7.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 11 February 2026

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

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

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 12 February 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: Social Justice and Housing

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Budget (Scotland) (No. 5) 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 2 February 2026, 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

S6M-20569.1 Ash Regan: Business Programme—As an amendment to motion S6M-20569 in the name of Graeme Dey (Business Programme), leave out "5.15 pm Decision Time" and insert "6.15 pm Decision Time".

S6M-20570 Graeme Dey: Stage 1 Timetable—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Desecration of War Memorials (Scotland) Bill at stage 1 be completed by 6 February 2026.

S6M-20571 Graeme Dey: Stage 2 Timetable—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Children (Care, Care Experience and Services Planning) (Scotland) Bill at stage 2 be completed by 20 February 2026.

S6M-20572 Graeme Dey: Stage 2 Timetable—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Contract (Formation and Remedies) (Scotland) Bill at stage 2 be completed by 6 February 2026.

S6M-20573 Graeme Dey: Stage 2 Timetable—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Crofting and Scottish Land Court Bill at stage 2 be completed by 20 February 2026.

S6M-20574 Graeme Dey: Stage 2 Timetable—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Building Safety Levy (Scotland) Bill at stage 2 be completed by 20 February 2026.

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

S6M-20575 Graeme Dey: Approval of SSI—That the Parliament agrees that the Land and Buildings Transaction Tax (Investment Zones Relief) (Scotland) Order 2026 [draft] be approved.

S6M-20576 Graeme Dey: Suspension of Standing Orders—That the Parliament agrees that, for the purposes of consideration of the supplementary legislative consent memorandum on the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill, Rules 9B.3.5 and 9B.3.6 of Standing Orders are suspended.

10:00 pm Decision Time

Committee Meetings

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

Rural Affairs and Islands Committee 4th Meeting, 2026

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

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take item 6 in private.
2. **Draft Climate Change Plan:** The Committee will take evidence from—
Mairi Gougeon, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands, Brendan Callaghan, Interim Chief Executive, Scottish Forestry, Tim Ellis, Deputy Director, Future Environment, and John Kerr, Head of Agriculture Policy, Scottish Government.
3. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee will take evidence on the [Sea Fish \(Prohibition on Fishing\) \(Firth of Clyde\) Order 2026](#) (SSI 2026/10) from—
Esther Brooker, Senior Advocacy Officer, Scottish Environment LINK;
Dr Robin Cook, Honorary Senior Research Fellow, Strathclyde University;
Rea Cris, Public Affairs Manager, Open Seas;
Alex Watson Crook, Projects Manager, Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Trust;
Megan Hamill, Trustee, Community of Arran Seabed Trust;
Alastair Hamilton, Chair of the NW Coast, Regional Inshore Fisheries Groups Network;
Professor Michael Heath, Professor in Mathematics and Statistics, University of Strathclyde;
Sean McIlwraith, Static Fisherman and Kenneth MacNab, Mobile Fisherman;
Elaine Whyte, Executive Secretary, Clyde Fishermen's Association.
4. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee will consider the following negative instrument—

[Retained EU Law \(Revocation and Reform\) Act 2023 \(Agricultural Products\) \(Consequential Amendment\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2025](#) (SSI 2025/407)
5. **Draft Climate Change Plan (In Private):** The Committee will consider the evidence heard earlier in the meeting.
6. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee will consider the evidence heard earlier in the meeting.

Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee 3rd Meeting, 2026

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 3 in private.
2. **Consideration of continued petitions:** The Committee will consider the following continued petitions—

PE1946: To call on the Scottish Government to pay all charges for homeless temporary accommodation;

PE2143: Introduce legislation to require all landlords to tackle damp and mould to specified standards;

PE1985: Evaluate Garages to Homes Developments;

PE2018: Recognise the value of swimming pools and provide financial relief to help keep pools open;

PE2020: Provide fertility treatment to single women;

PE2025: Improve the support available to victims of domestic violence, who have been forced to flee their home;

PE2061: Require solicitors to ensure capacity of vulnerable individuals by having a medical professional co-sign legal documents;

PE2062: Introduce a National Screening Programme for Prostate Cancer;

PE2107: Use more money recovered from the proceeds of crime to support community-based charities that train animals to assist in the detection of drugs;

PE2139: Automatic expulsion for children charged with committing a crime against another child;

PE2141: Support the neurodiverse community by providing funding for psychoeducation;

PE2148: Improve Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services to Adult Mental Health Services transition; and

PE2155: Improve support for people trying to give up e-cigarettes and vaping.

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

Economy and Fair Work Committee 4th Meeting, 2026

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

1. **Draft Climate Change Plan (In Private):** The Committee will consider a draft letter.
2. **Work programme (In Private):** The Committee will consider its work programme.

Education, Children and Young People Committee 4th Meeting, 2026

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

1. **Universities:** The Committee will take evidence from—
Dan Cutts, Joint Chair, Aberdeen University UCU branch, Melissa D'Ascenzio, Joint President, Dundee University UCU branch, and Sophia Woodman, President, Edinburgh University UCU branch, UCU;
Stewart Forrester, Unite Senior Representative, Strathclyde University.
2. **Evidence Session (In Private):** The Committee will consider the evidence it heard earlier under agenda item 1
3. **Work programme (In Private):** The Committee will consider its work programme.

Public Audit Committee 4th Meeting, 2026

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 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 in private.
2. **Administration of Scottish income tax 2024/25:** The Committee will take evidence from—
Stephen Boyle, Auditor General for Scotland;
Richard Robinson, Senior Manager, Audit Scotland;
Gareth Davies, Comptroller and Auditor General and Peter Morland, Director - Financial Audit, National Audit Office.
3. **Administration of Scottish income tax 2024/25:** The Committee will consider the evidence heard at agenda item 2 and take further evidence from—
Stephen Boyle, Auditor General for Scotland;
Richard Robinson, Senior Manager, Audit Scotland.
4. **Legacy paper:** The Committee will consider an approach to its draft legacy paper.
Stephen Boyle, Auditor General for Scotland;
Mark MacPherson, Audit Director, Audit Scotland.
5. **Legacy paper:** The Committee will consider and agree its approach to its draft legacy paper.
6. **Administration of Scottish income tax 2024/25:** The Committee will consider the evidence heard at agenda items 2 and 3 and agree any further action it wishes to take.
7. **Work programme:** The Committee will consider its work programme.

Criminal Justice Committee 4th Meeting, 2026

The Committee will meet at 10:00AM in T4.60-CR6 The Livingstone Room

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take item 5 in private.
2. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee will consider the following negative instrument—

[Firefighters' Pension Scheme \(Scotland\) Amendment Order 2025](#) (SSI 2025/406)

3. **UK subordinate legislation:** The Committee will consider a proposal by the Scottish Government to consent to the UK Government legislating in a devolved area as set out in the following UK statutory instrument proposal—

North Atlantic Salmon Conservation and North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission Privileges and Immunities Revocation Regulations 2026

4. **Prevention of Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Bill (In Private):** The Committee will consider a draft Summary of Evidence on the Bill.
5. **Draft Climate Change Plan (In Private):** The Committee will consider a draft letter to the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee.
6. **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