

**Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee**  
**Tuesday 20 January 2026**  
**2nd Meeting, 2026 (Session 6)**

## **Inquiry into Neurodivergence in Scotland**

### **Overview**

1. At its meeting on 13 May 2025 the Committee agreed to undertake an inquiry looking at the challenges facing neurodivergent people and the services for them in Scotland.
2. This inquiry was precipitated by the Scottish Government's decision in 2024 to delay the introduction of a Learning Disabilities, Autism and Neurodivergence bill.
3. Following this decision the Committee took evidence from [stakeholders](#) and the then [Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport](#) to find out more about the impact of the decision and what could be achieved in absence of the Bill.
4. The Committee also heard from Autistic Disabled People's Organisations as part of an informal session in 2025.
5. At today's meeting, the Committee will take evidence from the Royal College of Psychiatrists and a roundtable of autistic disabled people's organisations and ADHD organisations. Specifically, the Committee will hear from:

#### **Panel 1**

##### **Royal College of Psychiatrists**

- Dr Jim Crabb, Policy Lead, Royal College of Psychiatrists in Scotland

#### **Panel 2**

##### **Roundtable with autistic disabled people's organisations and ADHD organisations**

- Debbie Best, Director, DIFFERabled
- Kabie Brook, Chairperson, Autism Rights Group Highland (ARGH)
- Sofia Farzana, Co-founder, Scottish Ethnic Minority Autistics (SEMA)
- Marion McLaughlin, Managing Director and Founder, Aurora Autistic Consulting
- Rachel Parker, Founding Trustee, Autistic Voices Advocating Together for Autonomous Rights (AVATAR)
- Carolyn Scott, Founder and Researcher, ADHD Right Now

- Leo Starrs-Cunningham, Treasurer, Autistic Mutual Aid Society Edinburgh (AMASE)

## **Committee consideration**

6. The Committee is asked to note the information provided above.

**Clerks to the Committee**  
**January 2026**