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SPICe

The Information Centre

Scottish Parliament Fact Sheet

Dates of Recess, Dissolution and Parliamentary Years

10 April 2018

Parliamentary Business: Historic Series

This Fact Sheet provides a list of the parliamentary years since 1999 as well as the dates when the Scottish Parliament has been in recess and dissolution.

A parliamentary year is a period, normally of 12 months, beginning on the date of the first meeting of the Parliament following a general election, and on each subsequent anniversary of that date within that session.

Recess is a period when the Parliament is not dissolved, but is not meeting for a particular length of time. The dates of recesses are decided by the Parliament on a motion from the Parliamentary Bureau that has regard to Scottish school holidays (rule 2.3).

Dissolution is the official term for the end of a session. The Presiding Officer determines the date when the Parliament is expected to be dissolved and members are notified of the date by the Clerk. Under the Scotland Act 1998 ordinary general elections are held on the first Thursday in May, every four years.



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Parliamentary Years

Session One	Start Date	End Date
Parliamentary Year 1	12 May 1999	11 May 2000
Parliamentary Year 2	12 May 2000	11 May 2001
Parliamentary Year 3	12 May 2001	11 May 2002
Parliamentary Year 4	12 May 2002	31 March 2003

Session Two	Start Date	End Date
Parliamentary Year 1	7 May 2003	6 May 2004
Parliamentary Year 2	7 May 2004	6 May 2005
Parliamentary Year 3	7 May 2005	6 May 2006
Parliamentary Year 4	7 May 2006	2 April 2007

Session Three	Start Date	End Date
Parliamentary Year 1	9 May 2007	8 May 2008
Parliamentary Year 2	9 May 2008	8 May 2009
Parliamentary Year 3	9 May 2009	8 May 2010
Parliamentary Year 4	9 May 2010	22 March 2011

Session Four	Start Date	End Date
Parliamentary Year 1	11 May 2011	10 May 2012
Parliamentary Year 2	11 May 2012	10 May 2013
Parliamentary Year 3	11 May 2013	10 May 2014
Parliamentary Year 4	11 May 2014	10 May 2015
Parliamentary Year 5	11 May 2015	23 March 2016

Session Five	Start Date	End Date
Parliamentary Year 1	12 May 2016	11 May 2017
Parliamentary Year 2	12 May 2017	11 May 2018

Recess and Dissolution Dates

Session One: 12 May 1999 – 31 March 2003

	Recess	Start Date	End Date
1999	Summer	5 July 1999	30 August 1999
	Autumn	11 October 1999	22 October 1999
	Christmas	20 December 1999	7 January 2000
2000	Spring	10 April 2000	24 April 2000
	Summer	10 July 2000	03 September 2000
	Autumn	9 October 2000	22 October 2000
	Christmas	21 December 2000	7 January 2001
2001	February	19 February 2001	23 February 2001
	Spring	9 April 2001	20 April 2001
	Summer	2 July 2001	31 August 2001
	Autumn	8 October 2001	19 October 2001
	Christmas	24 December 2001	04 January 2002
2002	February	18 February 2002	22 February 2002
	Spring	29 March 2002	12 April 2002
	Summer	11 July 2002	30 August 2002
	Autumn	14 October 2002	25 October 2002
	Christmas	23 December 2002	3 January 2003
2003	Dissolution	1 April 2003 ¹	1 May 2003

¹ Dissolution began at midnight on 31 March 2003

Session Two: 7 May 2003 – 2 April 2007

	Recess	Start Date	End Date
2003	Summer	28 June 2003	31 August 2003
	Autumn	11 October 2003	26 October 2003
	Christmas	20 December 2003	4 January 2004
2004	February	14 February 2004	22 February 2004
	Spring	3 April 2004	18 April 2004
	Summer	26 June 2004	29 August 2004
	Autumn	11 October 2004	22 October 2004
	Christmas	27 December 2004	7 January 2005
2005	February	12 February 2005	20 February 2005
	Spring	25 March 2005	10 April 2005
	Summer	2 July 2005	4 September 2005
	Autumn	8 October 2005	23 October 2005
	Christmas	24 December 2005	8 January 2006
2006	February	11 February 2006	19 February 2006
	Spring	1 April 2006	17 April 2006
	Summer	1 July 2006	3 September 2006
	Autumn	7 October 2006	22 October 2006
	Christmas	23 December 2006	7 January 2007
2007	Dissolution	3 April 2007 ²	3 May 2007

² Dissolution began at midnight on 2 April 2007

Session Three: 9 May 2007 – 22 March 2011

	Recess	Start Date	End Date
2007	Summer	30 June 2007	2 September 2007
	Autumn	6 October 2007	21 October 2007
	Christmas	22 December 2007	4 January 2008
2008	February	9 February 2008	17 February 2008
	Spring	29 March 2008	13 April 2008
	Summer	28 June 2008	31 August 2008
	Autumn	11 October 2008	26 October 2008
	Christmas	20 December 2008	4 January 2009
2009	February	14 February 2009	22 February 2009
	Spring	4 April 2009	19 April 2009
	Summer	27 June 2009	30 August 2009
	Autumn	10 October 2009	25 October 2009
	Christmas	21 December 2009	4 January 2010
2010	February	13 February 2010	21 February 2010
	Spring	27 March 2010	11 April 2010
	Summer	5 July 2010	5 September 2010
	Autumn	9 October 2010	24 October 2010
	Christmas	23 December 2010	9 January 2011
2011	February	14 February 2011	20 February 2011
2011	Dissolution	23 March 2011 ³	5 May 2011

³ Dissolution began at midnight on 22 March 2011

Session 4: 11 May 2011 – 23 March 2016

	Recess	Start Date	End Date
2011	Summer	2 July 2011	4 September 2011
	Autumn	8 October 2011	23 October 2011
	Christmas	23 December 2011	8 January 2012
2012	February	13 February 2012	19 February 2012
	Spring	31 March 2012	15 April 2012
	Summer	30 June 2012	2 September 2012
	Autumn	6 October 2012	21 October 2012
	Christmas	22 December 2012	6 January 2013
2013	February	9 February 2013	17 February 2013
	Spring	30 March 2013	14 April 2013
	Summer	29 June 2013	1 September 2013
	Autumn	12 October 2013	27 October 2013
	Christmas	21 December 2013	5 January 2014
2014	February	8 February 2014	16 February 2014
	Spring	5 April 2014	20 April 2014
	Summer	28 June 2014	3 August 2014
	Summer	23 August 2014	21 September 2014
	Autumn	11 October 2014	26 October 2014
	Christmas	20 December 2014	4 January 2015
2015	February	7 February 2015	15 February 2015
	Spring	4 April 2015	19 April 2015
	Summer	27 June 2015	30 August 2015
	Autumn	10 October 2015	25 October 2015
	Christmas	19 December 2015	4 January 2016
2016	February	13 February 2016	21 February 2016
2016	Dissolution	24 March 2016 ⁴	5 May 2016

⁴ Dissolution began at midnight on 23 March 2016.

Session 5: 12 May 2016- to date

	Recess	Start Date	End Date
2016	Summer	2 July 2016	4 September 2016
	Autumn	8 October 2016	23 October 2016
	Christmas	24 December 2016	8 January 2017
2017	February	11 February 2017	19 February 2017
	Spring	1 April 2017	16 April 2017
	Summer	1 July 2017	3 September 2017
	Autumn	7 October 2017	22 October 2017
	Christmas	23 December 2017	7 January 2018
2018	February	10 February 2018	18 February 2018
	Spring	31 March 2018	15 April 2018
	Summer	30 June 2018	2 September 2018
	Autumn	6 October 2018	21 October 2018
	Christmas	22 December 2018	6 January 2019

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The Information Centre

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