

Scottish Parliament Fact sheet

Ministers, Law Officers and Parliamentary Liaison Officers by Cabinet: Session 4

20 May 2016

MSPs: Historical Series

This Fact sheet provides a list of all of the Scottish Ministers and Parliamentary Liaison Officer by Cabinet, during Session 4 from 25 May 2011.

This fact sheet provides a list of Ministers and Law Officers. The Scotland Act 1998 refers to them as Scottish Ministers, junior Scottish Ministers and Law Officers. The current government calls them Cabinet Secretaries, Ministers and Law Officers.

In addition to the First Minister there are currently seven Cabinet Secretaries and thirteen Ministers. Together they make up the Scottish Government. The government is responsible for devolved matters and formulating and implementing policy in these areas.

There are also two Law Officers who advise the government on legal matters and represent its interests in court.

The final section lists Parliamentary Liaison Officers (PLO) (formerly Ministerial Parliamentary Aides). PLOs are MSPs appointed by the First Minister on the recommendation of Ministers whom they assist in discharging their duties. PLOs are unpaid and are not part of the Scottish Government.

Abbreviations used:

SNP	Scottish National Party
QC	Queen's Counsel



First Cabinet: 25 May 2011 – 5 December 2011

Post	Minister	Party
First Minister	Rt Hon Alex Salmond ¹	SNP
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Cities Strategy	Nicola Sturgeon	SNP
Minister for Commonwealth Games and Sport	Shona Robison	SNP
Minister for Public Health	Michael Matheson	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Employment and Sustainable Growth	John Swinney	SNP
Minister for Energy, Enterprise and Tourism	Fergus Ewing	SNP
Minister for Local Government and Planning	Aileen Campbell	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning	Michael Russell	SNP
Minister for Children and Young People	Angela Constance	SNP
Minister for Learning and Skills (with responsibility for Gaelic & Scots)	Alasdair Allan	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Parliamentary Business and Government Strategy	Bruce Crawford	SNP
Minister for Parliamentary Business and Chief Whip	Brian Adam	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Justice	Kenny MacAskill	SNP
Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs (with responsibility for tackling sectarianism)	Roseanna Cunningham	SNP
Minister for Community Safety	Fergus Ewing	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment	Richard Lochhead	SNP
Minister for Environment and Climate Change	Stewart Stevenson	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs	Fiona Hyslop	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure and Capital Investment	Alex Neil	SNP
Minister for Housing and Transport	Keith Brown	SNP

Law Officers

Post	Law Officer
Lord Advocate	Frank Mulholland QC
Solicitor General for Scotland	Lesley Thomson QC

¹ Appointed 18 May 2011

Parliamentary Liaison Officers

Parliamentary Liaison Officer to the	MSP	Party
Office of the First Minister	Joan McAlpine MSP Humza Yousaf MSP	SNP SNP
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Cities Strategy	Jim Eadie MSP	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning	Marco Biagi MSP	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Parliamentary Business and Government Strategy	Derek Mackay MSP	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment	Paul Wheelhouse MSP	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Justice	John Finnie MSP	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs	Claire Adamson MSP	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure and Capital Investment	Aileen McLeod MSP	SNP

Second Cabinet: 6 December 2011 – 4 September 2012

Post	Minister	Party
First Minister	Rt Hon Alex Salmond	SNP
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Cities Strategy	Nicola Sturgeon	SNP
Minister for Commonwealth Games and Sport	Shona Robison	SNP
Minister for Public Health	Michael Matheson	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Employment and Sustainable Growth	John Swinney	SNP
Minister for Energy, Enterprise and Tourism	Fergus Ewing	SNP
Minister for Local Government and Planning	Derek Mackay ²	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning	Michael Russell	SNP
Minister for Children and Young People	Aileen Campbell	SNP
Minister for Learning, Science and Scotland's Languages	Alasdair Allan	SNP
Minister for Youth Employment	Angela Constance	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Parliamentary Business and Government Strategy	Bruce Crawford ³	SNP
Minister for Parliamentary Business and Chief Whip	Brian Adam ⁴	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Justice	Kenny MacAskill	SNP

² Appointed 14 December 2011

³ Resigned on 6 September 2012

⁴ Resigned on 6 September 2012

Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs (with responsibility for tackling sectarianism)	Roseanna Cunningham	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment	Richard Lochhead	SNP
Minister for Environment and Climate Change	Stewart Stevenson ⁵	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs	Fiona Hyslop	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure and Capital Investment	Alex Neil	SNP
Minister for Housing and Transport	Keith Brown	SNP

Law Officers

Post	Law Officer
Lord Advocate	Frank Mulholland QC
Solicitor General for Scotland	Lesley Thomson QC

Parliamentary Liaison Officers

Parliamentary Liaison Officer to the	MSP	Party
Office of the First Minister	Joan McAlpine MSP	SNP
	Humza Yousaf MSP	SNP
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Cities Strategy	Jim Eadie MSP	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Employment and Sustainable Growth	Mark McDonald MSP ⁶	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning	Marco Biagi MSP	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Parliamentary Business and Government Strategy	Paul Wheelhouse MSP ⁷	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment	Annabelle Ewing MSP ⁸	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Justice	John Finnie MSP	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs	Claire Adamson MSP	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure and Capital Investment	Aileen McLeod MSP	SNP
Minister for Youth Employment ⁹	Kevin Stewart MSP ¹⁰	SNP

⁵ Resigned on 6 September 2012

⁶ Resigned on 14 May 2013

⁷ Was Parliamentary Liaison Officer to the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment until 22 February 2012

⁸ Appointed 23 February 2012

⁹ Post created 23 February 2012

¹⁰ Appointed 23 February 2012

Third Cabinet: 5 September 2012 to 22 April 2014

Post	Minister	Party
First Minister	Alex Salmond MSP	SNP
Minister for Parliamentary Business	Joe FitzPatrick MSP ¹¹	SNP
Deputy First Minister (with responsibility for Government Strategy and the Constitution) and Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities	Nicola Sturgeon MSP	SNP
Minister for Transport and Veterans	Keith Brown MSP	SNP
Minister for Housing and Welfare	Margaret Burgess MSP ¹²	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing	Alex Neil MSP	SNP
Minister for Commonwealth Games and Sport	Shona Robison MSP	SNP
Minister for Public Health	Michael Matheson MSP	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Employment and Sustainable Growth	John Swinney MSP	SNP
Minister for Energy, Enterprise and Tourism	Fergus Ewing MSP	SNP
Minister for Local Government and Planning	Derek Mackay MSP	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning	Michael Russell MSP	SNP
Minister for Children and Young People	Aileen Campbell MSP	SNP
Minister for Learning, Science and Scotland's Languages	Dr Alasdair Allan MSP	SNP
Minister for Youth Employment	Angela Constance MSP	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Justice	Kenny MacAskill MSP	SNP
Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs	Roseanna Cunningham MSP	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment	Richard Lochhead MSP	SNP
Minister for Environment and Climate Change	Paul Wheelhouse MSP ¹³	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs	Fiona Hyslop MSP	SNP
Minister for External Affairs and International Development	Humza Yousaf MSP ¹⁴	SNP

Law Officers

Post	Law Officer
Lord Advocate	Frank Mulholland QC
Solicitor General for Scotland	Lesley Thomson QC

¹¹ Appointed 6 September 2012

¹² Appointed 6 September 2012

¹³ Appointed 6 September 2012

¹⁴ Appointed 6 September 2012

Parliamentary Liaison Officers

Parliamentary Liaison Officer to the	MSP	Party
Office of the First Minister	Joan McAlpine MSP Mark McDonald MSP ¹⁵	SNP
Deputy First Minister (with responsibility for Government Strategy and the Constitution) and Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities	Jim Eadie MSP ¹⁶ Annabelle Ewing MSP ¹⁷	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Employment and Sustainable Growth	Stewart Stevenson MSP ¹⁸ Mike MacKenzie MSP ¹⁹	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning	George Adam MSP ²⁰	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Justice	Sandra White MSP ²¹	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment	Angus MacDonald MSP ²²	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs	Claire Adamson MSP	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing	Aileen McLeod MSP ²³	SNP
Minister for Youth Employment	Gordon MacDonald MSP	SNP

¹⁵ Appointed 1 October 2012; Resigned on 14 May 2013

¹⁶ Was Parliamentary Liaison Officer to Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Cities Strategy until 30 September 2012

¹⁷ Was Parliamentary Liaison Officer to Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment until 30 September 2012

¹⁸ Appointed 1 October 2012

¹⁹ Appointed 1 October 2012

²⁰ Appointed 1 October 2012

²¹ Appointed 5 November 2012. John Finnie held the position until 23 October 2012 when he resigned as a member of the SNP.

²² Appointed 1 October 2012

²³ Was Parliamentary Liaison Officer to Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure and Capital Investment until 30 September 2012

Fourth Cabinet: 22 April 2014 to 20 November 2014

Post	Minister	Party
First Minister	Alex Salmond MSP	SNP
Minister for Parliamentary Business	Joe FitzPatrick MSP	SNP
Deputy First Minister (with responsibility for Government Strategy and the Constitution) and Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities	Nicola Sturgeon MSP	SNP
Minister for Transport and Veterans	Keith Brown MSP	SNP
Minister for Housing and Welfare	Margaret Burgess MSP	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing	Alex Neil MSP	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Commonwealth Games, Sport, Equalities and Pensioners' Rights	Shona Robison MSP	SNP
Minister for Public Health	Michael Matheson MSP	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Employment and Sustainable Growth	John Swinney MSP	SNP
Minister for Energy, Enterprise and Tourism	Fergus Ewing MSP	SNP
Minister for Local Government and Planning	Derek Mackay MSP	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning	Michael Russell MSP	SNP
Minister for Children and Young People	Aileen Campbell MSP	SNP
Minister for Learning, Science and Scotland's Languages	Dr Alasdair Allan MSP	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Training, Youth & Women's Employment	Angela Constance MSP	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Justice	Kenny MacAskill MSP	SNP
Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs	Roseanna Cunningham MSP	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Food and the Environment	Richard Lochhead MSP ²⁴	SNP
Minister for Environment and Climate Change	Paul Wheelhouse MSP	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs	Fiona Hyslop MSP	SNP
Minister for External Affairs and International Development	Humza Yousaf MSP	SNP

Law Officers

Post	Law Officer
Lord Advocate	Frank Mulholland QC
Solicitor General for Scotland	Lesley Thomson QC

²⁴ On 18 June 2014, the Cabinet Secretary's folio changed from Rural Affairs and the Environment, to Rural Affairs, Food and the Environment.

Parliamentary Liaison Officers

Parliamentary Liaison Officer to the	MSP	Party
Office of the First Minister	Joan McAlpine MSP Mark McDonald MSP ²⁵	SNP
Deputy First Minister (with responsibility for Government Strategy and the Constitution) and Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities	Jim Eadie MSP Annabelle Ewing MSP	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Employment and Sustainable Growth	Jamie Hepburn MSP ²⁶ Mike MacKenzie MSP	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning	George Adam MSP	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Justice	Sandra White MSP	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Food and the Environment	Angus MacDonald MSP ²⁷	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs	Claire Adamson MSP	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing	Aileen McLeod MSP	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Training, Youth & Women's Employment	Gordon MacDonald MSP	SNP

Fifth Cabinet: 21 November 2014 to 18 May 2016

Post	Minister	Party
First Minister	Nicola Sturgeon MSP ²⁸	SNP
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Constitution and Economy	John Swinney MSP	SNP
Minister for Business, Energy and Tourism	Fergus Ewing MSP	SNP
Minister for Parliamentary Business	Joe FitzPatrick MSP	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities	Keith Brown MSP ²⁹	SNP
Minister for Transport and Islands	Derek Mackay MSP	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Fair Work, Skills and Training	Roseanna Cunningham MSP ³⁰	SNP
Minister for Youth and Women's Employment	Annabelle Ewing MSP ³¹	SNP

²⁵ Appointed 25 June 2013

²⁶ Appointed 14 January 2014

²⁷ On 18 June 2014, the Cabinet Secretary's folio changed from Rural Affairs and the Environment, to Rural Affairs, Food and the Environment.

²⁸ Elected as First Minister on 19 November 2014.

²⁹ Appointed 25 November 2014

³⁰ Appointed 25 November 2014

Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning	Angela Constance MSP	SNP
Minister for Children and Young People	Aileen Campbell ³²	SNP
Minister for Children and Young People	Fiona McLeod MSP ³³ (18 December 2014- 31 August 2015)	SNP
Minister for Learning, Science and Scotland's Languages	Alasdair Allan MSP	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Sport	Shona Robison MSP	SNP
Minister for Public Health	Maureen Watt MSP ³⁴	SNP
Minister for Sport, Health Improvement and Mental Health	Jamie Hepburn MSP ³⁵	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Communities and Pensioners' Rights	Alex Neil MSP	SNP
Minister for Local Government and Community Empowerment	Marco Biagi MSP ³⁶	SNP
Minister for Housing and Welfare	Margaret Burgess MSP	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Justice	Michael Matheson MSP ³⁷	SNP
Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs	Paul Wheelhouse MSP	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Food and Environment	Richard Lochhead MSP	SNP
Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform	Aileen McLeod MSP ³⁸	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Europe and External Affairs	Fiona Hyslop MSP	SNP
Minister for Europe and International Development	Humza Yousaf MSP	SNP

Law Officers

Post	Law Officer
Lord Advocate	Frank Mulholland QC
Solicitor General for Scotland	Lesley Thomson QC

³¹ Appointed 25 November 2014

³² On maternity leave 18 December 2014- 31 August 2015, post covered by Fiona McLeod MSP.

³³ 18 December 2014 – 31 August 2015. Fiona McLeod MSP was appointed to cover the maternity leave of Aileen Campbell MSP.

³⁴ Appointed 25 November 2014

³⁵ Appointed 25 November 2014. On 2 December 2014 the Minister's folio changed from Sport and Health Improvement, to Sport, Health Improvement and Mental Health.

³⁶ Appointed 25 November 2014

³⁷ Appointed 25 November 2014

Parliamentary Liaison Officers³⁹

Parliamentary Liaison Officer to the	MSP	Party
Office of the First Minister	Jim Eadie MSP Kevin Stewart MSP	SNP
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Constitution and Economy	Mark McDonald MSP	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities	Mike MacKenzie MSP	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Fair Work, Skills and Training	Gordon MacDonald MSP	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning	George Adam MSP	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Sport	Bob Doris MSP	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Communities and Pensioners' Rights	Clare Adamson MSP	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Justice	Roderick Campbell MSP	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Food and the Environment	Angus MacDonald MSP	SNP

³⁸ Appointed 25 November 2014

³⁹ Parliamentary Liaison Officers were appointed on 9 January 2015

RELATED FACT SHEETS

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