

Scottish Parliament Fact sheet

Scottish Ministers, Law Officers and Parliamentary Liaison Officers: Session 4

02 September 2015

MSPs: Current Series

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 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 (PLOs) (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:

QC	Queen's Counsel
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Scottish Ministers

Post	Minister	Party
First Minister	Nicola Sturgeon MSP ¹	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 ²	SNP
Minister for Transport and Islands	Derek Mackay MSP	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Fair Work, Skills and Training	Roseanna Cunningham MSP ³	SNP
Minister for Youth and Women's Employment	Annabelle Ewing MSP ⁴	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning	Angela Constance MSP	SNP
Minister for Children and Young People	Aileen Campbell MSP ⁵	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 ⁶	SNP
Minister for Sport, Health Improvement and Mental Health	Jamie Hepburn MSP ⁷	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Communities and Pensioners' Rights	Alex Neil MSP	SNP
Minister for Local Government and Community Empowerment	Marco Biagi MSP ⁸	SNP
Minister for Housing and Welfare	Margaret Burgess MSP	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Justice	Michael Matheson MSP ⁹	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 ¹⁰	SNP
Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Europe and External Affairs	Fiona Hyslop MSP	SNP
Minister for Europe and International Development	Humza Yousaf MSP	SNP

¹ Elected as First Minister on 19 November 2014.

² Appointed 25 November 2014

³ Appointed 25 November 2014

⁴ Appointed 25 November 2014

⁵ On maternity leave 18 December 2014- 31 August 2015, post covered by Fiona McLeod MSP.

⁶ Appointed 25 November 2014

⁷ 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.

⁸ Appointed 25 November 2014

⁹ Appointed 25 November 2014

¹⁰ Appointed 25 November 2014

Law Officers

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

Parliamentary Liaison Officers¹¹

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

¹¹ Parliamentary Liaison Officers were appointed on 9 January 2015

RELATED FACT SHEETS

Party Spokespersons

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

Contacting the Public Information Service

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