



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Your Scots Pairlament



Whit is the Scots Pairlament?

The Scots Pairlament wis establishit in 1999 for tae debate maiters an mak laws for Scotland. It is made up o 129 electit bodies that's kent as Memmers o the Scots Pairlament or MSPs.



Whit's in the can o the Scots Pairlament?

The Scots Pairlament haes the can tae mak laws on a when o subjects that's kent as **hame-rule** maiters. Some maiters bides the burden o the UK Pairlament alane. Thir anes is kent as **kepit** maiters.

Hame-rule maiters comprehends:

- Ferming, widlands an fisheries
- Education an skeels
- The natural surroonds
- Health an social services
- Hoosing
- The guiding o land uiss
- Law an order
- Toun an cooncil government
- Sport an the airts
- Some taxes
- Muckle anent traivel

Kepit maiters comprehends:

- The Burou an benefits
- Braidcasting
- Constitution
- Fendin the kintra
- The job mercat
- Equal ingait for aw
- Fremmit policy
- Owerance o borders
- Tred an industry

Mair pouers, in maiters sic as taxes, the Burou, an elections tae the Scots Pairlament, is tae be gien ower tae the Scots Pairlament bi gait o the Scotland Act 2016.

Hoo daes the Pairlament mak laws?

The Scots Pairlament maks laws wi pittin throu bills. Bills can be inbrocht wi the Scots Government, MSPs that isna memmers o the Scots Government, comatees, an organisations or bodies that isna MSPs. For ordnar bills follaes a three-pairt process.

The pairts til a bill

Pairt 1

Comatees belangin the Pairlament conseeders the general heids (the ettles) o the bill an for ordnar speirs at memmers o the public for thair inpit forby.

Syne the Pairlament hauds a debate in the Chaumer an wins at a deceesion anent the general heids o the bill.

Pairt 2

A comatee belangin the Pairlament taks tent o ony chenges (amendments) til a bill that's proponed, an decides whither thir shuid be acceptit.

Pairt 3

The Pairlament can conseeder forder amendments tae the bill. Syne the Pairlament decides whither tae pass or doun-ding the bill.

Whit happens efter?

Efter a bill haes been passt, for ordnar the'r up tae fower weeks whan hit can be challenged, gin it's thocht that it's ootwi the law-makkin pouers o the Scots Pairlament. Gin it isna challenged, the bill will be brocht forrit for the monarch's Touch.

Aince a bill haes received the Touch, it becomes an Act o the Scots Pairlament. Houanever, it micht be a whilie afore it aw comes intae law.



Did ye ken?

The Scots Pairlament an the Scots Government is sindry organisations. The Scots Pairlament maks laws on hame-rule maiters an gars the Scots Government gie accoont o itsel. The Scots Government cairries oot the laws an wirks tae fesh-on policy anent hame-rule maiters.

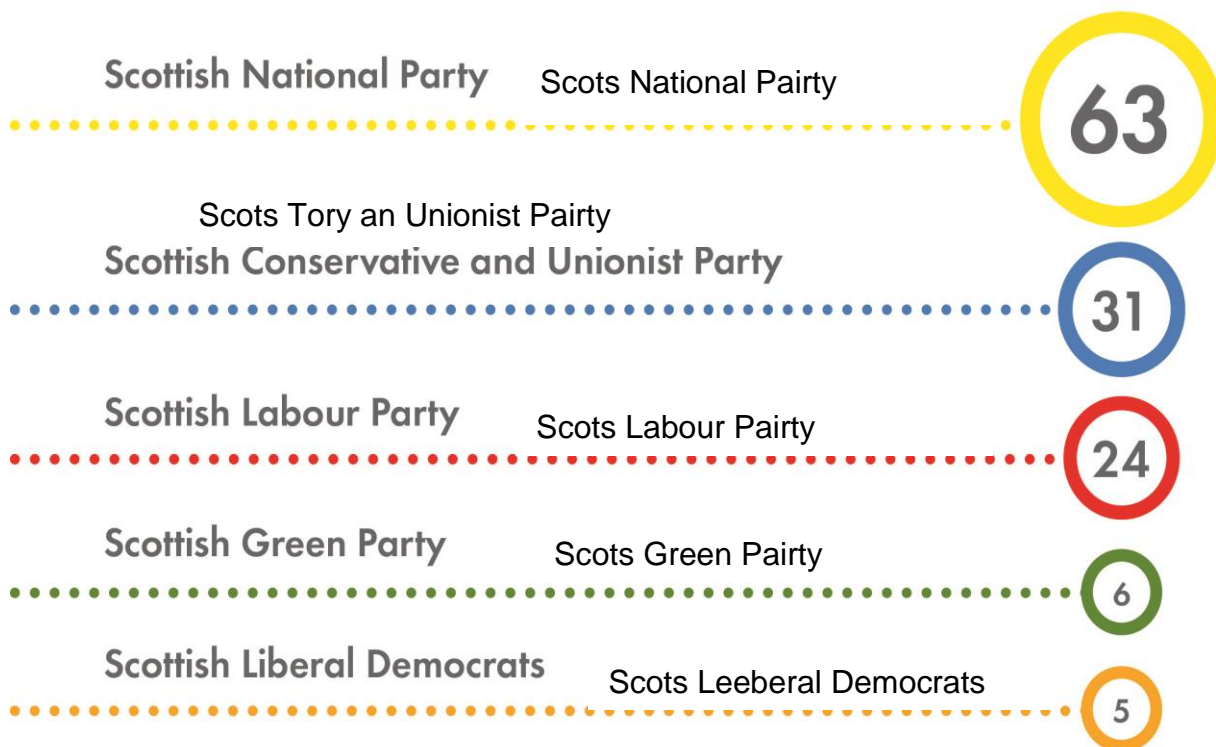
MSPs

Hoo is MSPs electit?

At a Scots Pairlament election, ilka voter haes twa votes – ane for thair constituency an ane for thair region. Awthegither the'r 73 constituency MSPs an 56 regional MSPs. MSPs is electit usin whit's cryed the Adeetional Memmer System, an this is a kind o proportional representation.

For ordnar, ilka body in Scotland is representit wi ae constituency MSP an seven regional MSPs. Thay aw hae the same stauning as ane anither an ye can speir at ony o the echt that represents ye.

The affcome o the Scots Pairlament election o 2016 gain bi pairty



Whit daes MSPs dae?

MSPs wirks in the pairts o the kintra that thay represent. Thay attend debates an gaitherings o comatees in the Scots Pairlament forby. In representin ye, MSPs can:

- ludge a motion sae that ithers will tak tent o a maiter
- speak in a debate
- pit forrit a bill tae chenge the law

- speir at Scots Government Meenisters
- refer maiters til, or speir at, anither body or organisation

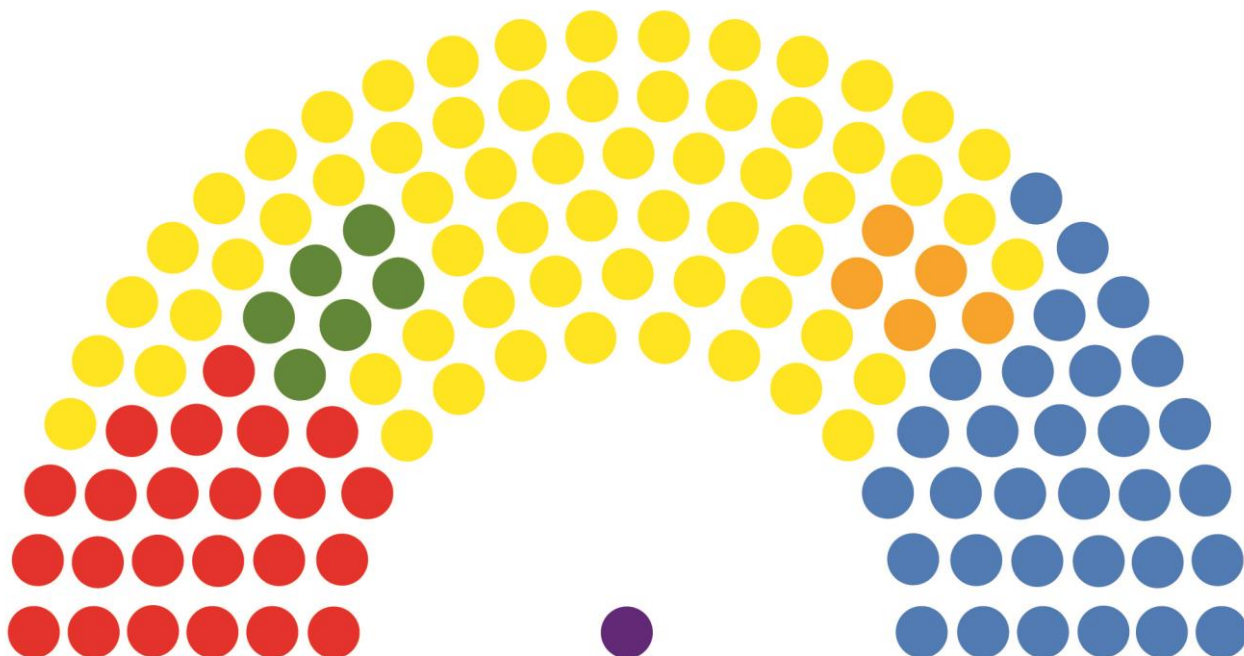
Wha represents me?

To find oot whit bodies represents ye, ye can use the postcode search on oor wab pages or speir at Public Information.



Whit gaes on in the Debating Chaumer?

Aw MSPs can tak pairt in gaitherings in the Debating Chaumer, whaur thay sit for ordnar in thair pairty groups.



Forby discussions on proposeetions for new laws, the hauning in the Chaumer can comprehend the follaein:

- **Debates**
Thir's discussions atween MSPs, that's grundit for ordnar on a motion.
- **The Speiring o the First Meenister**
This is whan MSPs pits the First Meenister throu a speiring.
- **Speiring Times**
This is whan MSPs pits Cabinet Secretars an Meenisters throu a speiring.
- **Statements bi Meenisters**
Thir times is used bi Cabinet Secretars an Meenisters tae mak the Pairlament tentie o clamant maiters, or tae mak annoouncements anent policy.
- **Deceesion Time**
This is whan MSPs decides aboot maiters moved thon day, affen throu haudin a vote.



Whit is the pairt that the Preses haes in the Chaumer?

The Preses, assistit wi twa Preses Deputes, convenes gaiterings in the Debating Chaumer. The Preses (or a Preses Depute) sits at a desk at the front of the Chaumer, forenent the ither MSPs.

Whan convenin gaiterings, the Preses an Deputes maun act athoot takkin ony side.

Whit daes comatees dae?

Comatees is sma groups o MSPs that looks at parteeclar subjects sic as health, the economy or the law. Thay are at the hert o the wark o the Scots Pairlament acause, unlike the UK Pairlament, the Scots Pairlament is a pairlament wi ae chaumer jist.

The wark o comatees comprehends:

- **Law-makkin**
Comatees can conseeder an amend proposeetions for new laws. Forby, thay can propone new laws thair ainsels.
- **Comatee speirs**
Comatees can speir intae ony area that's pairt o thair remit an set furth thair recommendations.
- **Peteetions**
Comatees can conseeder an mak report on peteetions that's been gien in bi memmers o the public an groups that wants ithers tae tak tent o a maiter.



Hoo daes comatees wirk?

- Ilka comatee is heidit wi a convener an maist o the comatees the noo haes seven or eleven MSPs as memmers. The memmers mirras hoo the sindry political pairties an groupings in the Scots Pairlament hings.
- Comatees can caw on memmers of the public tae gie thair opeenions on the maiters in haun. Thay can inveet ony body tae attend a gaithering an-aw, as a witness. Witnesses depones sib tae the haunling o the comatee.

Public Information

For mair wittins o the Scots Pairlament, its memmership, haunling or procedures, please speir at us.

Live Crack: www.parliament.scot/live-chat

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