



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Finance and Public Administration Committee

Alison Johnstone MSP
Presiding Officer
Scottish Parliament

19 March 2026

Dear Alison

The Finance and Public Administration Committee today published a [legacy report](#), reflecting on its work throughout Session 6 and making recommendations for its successor committee.

Our recommendations build on the Committee's previous inquiries and reports, and were also informed by standalone evidence sessions on legacy issues, which took place in February and March 2026.

In addition to recommendations to our successor committee, our report makes the following recommendations to the wider Parliament, reflecting the findings of our work on public administration:

- That the next finance committee retains public administration as a distinctive area of its remit. Scrutiny of futures thinking should also be included within the public administration remit.
- That the recommendations agreed by Parliament on Scotland's Commissioner landscape, including relating to committee remits for scrutiny and assessment of proposals to create new SPCB supported bodies are fully implemented.
- That scrutiny of public inquiries is added to the remit of a Parliamentary committee.

As you'll be aware, this was the first time in the Scottish Parliament's history that the Finance Committee's remit explicitly included public administration, defined as "oversight and scrutiny of the way in which government exercises its overall functions and the quality and standards of administration provided by the civil service in the Scottish Government".

The Committee heard strong evidence that public administration should be retained as an explicit part of its remit, to provide the continuity and focus required to strengthen scrutiny and improve long-term outcomes, accountability and decision-making. We also heard that the combination of the finance and public administration

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remit is particularly effective, and that scrutiny of public finances and public administration should be treated “as mutually reinforcing elements of effective governance”.

Our related recommendation on scrutiny of futures thinking was informed by our fact-finding visit to Lithuania, and our discussions with Members of the Lithuanian Committee for the Future.

Lastly, our recommendation to add scrutiny of public inquiries to the remit of a Parliamentary committee was informed by our previous work on the cost-effectiveness of Scottish public inquiries, and first iterated in our inquiry report, published in December 2025.

I would of course be happy to discuss these recommendations in more detail with you if it would be helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Kenneth Gibson MSP
Convener