The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Economy, Tourism and Energy Committee

Rt Hon Kenneth Gibson MSP
Presiding Officer
Scottish Parliament

05 November 2026

Dear Kenneth

Witness Development Programme

At its meeting on 3 November 2026, the Economy, Tourism and Energy Committee considered whether to continue the work of its Session 6 predecessor in supporting the Witness Development Programme.

The programme, developed by Women's Enterprise Scotland (WES) and the Institute of Directors (IoD), sought to encourage more women in business to engage with the Scottish Parliament and provide evidence to parliamentary committees.

The programme included presentations from experienced committee witnesses and practical activities designed to increase participants' understanding of, and confidence in, engaging with parliamentary committees. These activities included a tour of the Scottish Parliament building, a presentation on committees and a mock committee meeting. Participants also met members of the Economy and Fair Work Committee and the Presiding Officer.

The Committee's predecessor recommended in its legacy report—

> "The Committee commends the witness diversity programme to all incoming committees. To encourage witnesses from a more diverse range of backgrounds to become actively involved in the work of the Scottish Parliament and contribute views, the Conveners Group may wish to consider how a similar programme could be delivered to enhance the work of all committees."

The Committee therefore wishes to draw the Witness Development Programme to your attention and ask whether it might be considered by the Conveners Group as part of ongoing efforts to widen participation in committee scrutiny and explore whether a similar approach could be adopted more broadly during Session 7.

Yours sincerely,

Duncan Massey MSP, Convener

Contact: Economy, Tourism and Energy Committee, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP . Email economy.committee@parliament.scot. We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.