



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

SPICe

The Information Centre
An t-Ionad Fiosrachaidh

SPICe Fact Sheet

Duilleagan Fiosrachaidh SPICe

Cumulative list of Ministers and Law Officers: Session 6

The Scottish Government is made up of Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers, who are MSPs chosen by the First Minister. It also includes 2 Law Officers (the Lord Advocate and the Solicitor General for Scotland) who do not need to be MSPs.

This Fact Sheet provides a list of all Scottish Ministers and Law Officers, by cabinet, from the beginning of Session 6.

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Party	Abbreviation
Alba Party	Alba
Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party	Con
Scottish Green Party	Green
Scottish Labour	Lab
Scottish Liberal Democrats	LD
Scottish National Party	SNP
Independent MSPs	Ind
No Party Affiliation	NPA
QC	Queen's Counsel
KC	King's Counsel

First Cabinet

(19 May 2021 – 29 March 2023)

First Minister

Nicola Sturgeon (SNP) (18 May 2021 – 28 March 2023)

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery (also covering the Finance and Economy portfolio from 16 July 2022 due to Kate Forbes's maternity leave)

John Swinney (SNP) (18 May 2021 – 28 March 2023)

Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

Shirley-Anne Somerville (SNP) (19 May 2021 – 29 March 2023)

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care

Humza Yousaf (SNP) (19 May 2021 – 28 March 2023)

Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy

Kate Forbes (SNP) (19 May 2021 – 28 March 2023)

Currently on maternity leave from 16 July 2022 (portfolio being covered by John Swinney MSP)

Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Veterans

Keith Brown (SNP) (20 May 2021 – 29 March 2023)

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

Mairi Gougeon (SNP) (20 May 2021 – 29 March 2023)

Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External Affairs and Culture

Angus Robertson (SNP) (20 May 2021 – 29 March 2023)

Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport

Michael Matheson (SNP) (19 May 2021 – 29 March 2023)

Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government

Shona Robison (SNP) (20 May 2021 – 29 March 2023)

Minister for Drugs Policy

Angela Constance (SNP) (19 May 2021 – 29 March 2023)

Minister for Parliamentary Business

George Adam (SNP) (20 May 2021 – 29 March 2023)

Minister for Just Transition, Employment and Fair Work

Richard Lochhead (SNP) (19 May 2021 – 29 March 2023)

Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism and Enterprise

Ivan McKee (SNP) (19 May 2021 – 29 March 2023)

Minister for Public Finance, Planning and Community Wealth

Tom Arthur (SNP) (20 May 2021 – 29 March 2023)

Minister for Public Health, Women's Health and Sport

Maree Todd (SNP) (19 May 2021 – 29 March 2023)

Minister for Mental Wellbeing and Social Care

Kevin Stewart (SNP) (19 May 2021 – 29 March 2023)

Minister for Children and Young People

Clare Haughey (SNP) (19 May 2021 – 29 March 2023)

Minister for Higher Education and Further Education, Youth Employment and Training

Jamie Hepburn (SNP) (19 May 2021 – 29 March 2023)

Minister for Environment, Biodiversity and Land Reform

Mairi McAllan (SNP) (20 May 2021 – 31 August 2021)

Job title changed to Minister for Environment and Land Reform on 31 August 2021.

Minister for Environment and Land Reform

Mairi McAllan (SNP) (21 August 2021 – 29 March 2023)

Job title changed from Minister for Environment, Biodiversity and Land Reform on 31 August 2021.

Minister for Transport

Graeme Dey (SNP) (19 May 2021 – 24 January 2022)

Jenny Gilruth (SNP) (24 January 2022 – 29 March 2023)

Minister for Community Safety

Ash Regan (SNP) (19 May 2021 – 27 October 2022)

Name changed from Ash Denham to Ash Regan on 13 October 2021.

Elena Whitham (SNP) (3 November 2022 – 29 March 2023)

Minister for Equalities and Older People

Christina McKelvie (SNP) (19 May 2021 – 29 March 2023)

Minister for Social Security and Local Government

Ben MacPherson (SNP) (19 May 2021 – 29 March 2023)

Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development

Jenny Gilruth (SNP) (19 May 2021 – 24 January 2022)

Neil Gray (SNP) (25 January 2022- 11 March 2022)

Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine

Neil Gray (SNP) (11 March 2022- 29 March 2023)

Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings, Active Travel and Tenants' Rights

Patrick Harvie (Green) (from 31 August 2021)

Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity

Lorna Slater (Green) (from 31 August 2021)

Second Cabinet

(29 March 2023- 8 February 2024)

First Minister

Humza Yousaf (SNP) (from 28 March 2023)

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance

Shona Robison (SNP)

Included temporary responsibility for Alcohol Policy matters from 23 January 2024, to cover the portfolio of the Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy.

Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care

Michael Matheson (SNP)

Included temporary responsibility for Minimum Unit Pricing of alcohol from 23 January 2024, to cover the portfolio of the Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy.

Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

Jenny Gilruth (SNP) (from 30 March 2023)

Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Just Transition

Mairi McAllan (SNP) (from 30 March 2023 – 13 June 2023)

Job title changed to Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero and Just Transition on 13 June 2023.

Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero and Just Transition

Mairi McAllan (SNP) (from 13 June 2023)

Job title changed from Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Just Transition on 13 June 2023.

Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy

Neil Gray (SNP) (30 March 2023- 8 February 2024)

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands

Mairi Gougeon (SNP)

Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External Affairs and Culture

Angus Robertson (SNP) (from 20 May 2021)

Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice

Shirley-Anne Somerville (SNP)

Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs

Angela Constance (SNP) (from 30 March 2023)

Included temporary responsibility for Drug Policy matters from 23 January 2024, to cover the portfolio of the Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy. This was subject to any material or presentational conflicts arising with her Justice portfolio interests, in which case the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance would cover the business in question.

Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy

Elena Whitham (SNP) (29 March 2023- 6 February 2024)

Elena Whitham took a temporary leave of absence from 23 January 2024 and resigned on 6 February 2024.

Minister for Independence

Jamie Hepburn (SNP)

Minister for Parliamentary Business

George Adam (SNP)

Minister for Community Wealth and Public Finance

Tom Arthur (SNP)

Minister for Local Government Empowerment and Planning

Joe FitzPatrick (SNP) (from 30 March 2023)

Minister for Public Health and Women's Health

Jenni Minto (SNP) (from 30 March 2023)

Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport

Maree Todd (SNP)

Minister for Children, Young People and Keeping the Promise

Natalie Don-Innes (SNP) (from 30 March 2023)

Name changed from Natalie Don to Natalie Don-Innes on 22 August 2024.

Minister for Higher and Further Education and Minister for Veterans

Graeme Dey (SNP) (from 30 March 2023)

Minister for Transport

Kevin Stewart (SNP) (29 March 2023- 6 June 2023)

Fiona Hyslop (SNP) (from 13 June 2023- 20 February 2024)

Minister for Small Business, Innovation, Tourism and Trade

Richard Lochhead (SNP)

Job title changed from Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade on 13 June 2023.

Minister for Energy and the Environment

Gillian Martin (SNP) (from 30 March 2023)

Job title changed from Minister for Energy on 13 June 2023.

Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development

Christina McKelvie (SNP)

Minister for Equalities, Migration and Refugees

Emma Roddick (SNP) (from 30 March 2023)

Minister for Housing

Paul McLennan (SNP) (from 30 March 2023)

Minister for Victims and Community Safety

Siobhian Brown (SNP) (from 30 March 2023)

Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity

Lorna Slater (Green)

Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings, Active Travel and Tenants' Rights

Patrick Harvie (Green)

Law Officers

Lord Advocate

James Wolffe QC (1 June 2016 – 17 June 2021)

Dorothy Bain KC (from 17 June 2021)

Solicitor General

Alison Di Rollo (1 June 2016 – 17 June 2021)

Ruth Charteris KC (from 17 June 2021)

Third Cabinet

(8 February 2024 - 8 May 2024)

First Minister

John Swinney (from 7 May 2024)

Humza Yousaf (SNP) (until 7 May 2024)

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance

Shona Robison (SNP)

Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care

Neil Gray (SNP) (from 8 February 2024)

Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

Jenny Gilruth (SNP)

Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Net Zero and Energy

Mairi McAllan (SNP) (from 8 February 2024)

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands

Mairi Gougeon (SNP)

Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External Affairs and Culture

Angus Robertson (SNP)

Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice

Shirley-Anne Somerville (SNP)

Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs

Angela Constance (SNP)

Cabinet Secretary for Transport

Fiona Hyslop (SNP) (from 20 February 2024)

Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity

Jim Fairlie (SNP) (from 20 February 2024)

Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development

Kaukab Stewart (SNP) (from 20 February 2024)

Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy

Christina McKelvie (SNP)

Minister for Independence

Jamie Hepburn (SNP)

Minister for Cabinet and Parliamentary Business

George Adam (SNP)

Minister for Community Wealth and Public Finance

Tom Arthur (SNP)

Minister for Local Government Empowerment and Planning

Joe FitzPatrick (SNP)

Minister for Public Health and Women's Health

Jenni Minto (SNP)

Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport

Maree Todd (SNP)

Minister for Children, Young People and Keeping the Promise

Natalie Don-Innes (SNP)

Name changed from Natalie Don to Natalie Don-Innes on 22 August 2024.

Minister for Higher and Further Education and Minister for Veterans

Graeme Dey (SNP)

Minister for Transport

Fiona Hyslop (SNP) (until 20 February 2024)

Minister for Small Business, Innovation, Tourism and Trade

Richard Lochhead (SNP)

Minister for Energy, Just Transition and Fair Work

Gillian Martin (SNP)

Minister for Equalities, Migration and Refugees

Emma Roddick (SNP)

Minister for Housing

Paul McLennan (SNP)

Minister for Victims and Community Safety

Siobhian Brown (SNP)

Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity

Lorna Slater (Green) (until 25 April 2024)

Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings, Active Travel and Tenants' Rights

Patrick Harvie (Green) (until 25 April 2024)

Law Officers

Lord Advocate

Dorothy Bain KC

Solicitor General

Ruth Charteris KC

Fourth Cabinet

(8 May 2024- to date)

First Minister

John Swinney (from 7 May 2024)

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic

Kate Forbes (SNP) (from 9 May 2024)

Cabinet Secretary for Finance for Finance and Local Government

Shona Robison (SNP)

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care

Neil Gray (SNP)

(Includes temporary responsibility for Alcohol Policy matters from 20 August 2024, to cover the portfolio of the Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy).

Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

Jenny Gilruth (SNP)

Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy

Mairi McAllan (SNP)

(On maternity leave from 27 June 2024. This post is being covered by Gillian Martin)

Acting Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy

Gillian Martin (SNP) (from 27 June 2024)

Gillian Martin was appointed Acting Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy to cover Mairi McAllan's maternity leave.

Cabinet Secretary for Transport

Fiona Hyslop (SNP)

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands

Mairi Gougeon (SNP)

Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External Affairs and Culture

Angus Robertson (SNP)

Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice

Shirley-Anne Somerville (SNP)

Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs

Angela Constance (SNP)

Minister for Parliamentary Business

Jamie Hepburn (SNP)

Minister for Business

Richard Lochhead (SNP)

Minister for Employment and Investment

Tom Arthur (SNP)

Minister for Public Finance

Ivan McKee (SNP) (from 9 May 2024)

Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise

Natalie Don-Innes (SNP)

Name changed from Natalie Don to Natalie Don-Innes on 22 August 2024.

Minister for Higher and Further Education and Minister for Veterans

Graeme Dey (SNP)

Minister for Victims and Community Safety

Siobhian Brown (SNP)

Minister for Climate Action

Gillian Martin (SNP) (until 27 June 2024)

On 27 June 2024 Gillian Martin became Acting Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy to cover Mairi McAllan's maternity leave. Alasdair Allan has taken on the role of Acting Minister for Climate Action.

Acting Minister for Climate Action

Alasdair Allan (SNP) (from 27 June 2024)

Alasdair Allan was appointed Acting Minister for Climate Action to cover for Gillian Martin who in Acting Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy.

Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity

Jim Fairlie (SNP)

Minister for Public Health and Women's Health

Jenni Minto (SNP)

Includes temporary responsibility for Alcohol Policy matters from 20 August 2024, to cover the portfolio of the Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy.

Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport

Maree Todd (SNP)

Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy

Christina McKelvie (SNP) (until 27 March 2025)

Christina McKelvie died on 27 March 2025. This portfolio is currently being covered by Neil Gray, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, and Jenni Minto, Minister for Public Health and Women's Health.

Minister for Equalities

Kaukab Stewart (SNP)

Minister for Housing

Paul McLennan (SNP)

Law Officers

Lord Advocate

Dorothy Bain KC

Solicitor General

Ruth Charteris KC

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