

SPICe Fact Sheet

Duilleagan Fiosrachaidh SPICe

23 May 2023

Scottish Parliament committees: current committees, remits and membership

This Fact Sheet lists the remit and membership of all current committees in the Scottish Parliament. It is arranged alphabetically by the name of the committee and includes the committee type, remit, convenership and membership. It also lists the membership of the Conveners' Group.

Committee type	Abbreviation
Mandatory committee	M
Subject committee	S

Party	Abbreviation
Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party	Con
Scottish Green Party	Green
Scottish Labour	Lab
Scottish Liberal Democrats	LD
Scottish National Party	SNP

Conveners' Group

The Conveners' Group provides an informal forum where Committee Conveners can meet to discuss matters of mutual interest and to facilitate liaison between the Committees, the Parliamentary Bureau and the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body.

Remit: The Group handles a range of matters, for example:

- (a) approval of travel by committees or committee members
- (b) approval of meetings of committees outside Edinburgh
- (c) consideration of the biannual programme of committee meetings
- (d) endorsement of funding for civic participation events and external research

(e) making recommendations to the Bureau on committee business to be scheduled in the Chamber.

Convener: Liam McArthur (LD)

Members:

Clare Adamson (SNP)
Claire Baker (Lab)
Ariane Burgess (Green)
Jackson Carlaw (Con)
Finlay Carson (Con)
Jim Fairlie (SNP)
Clare Haughey (SNP)
Richard Leonard (Lab)
John Mason (SNP)
Stuart McMillan (SNP)
Edward Mountain (Con)
Audrey Nicoll (SNP)
Collette Stevenson (SNP)
Kaukab Stewart (SNP)
Sue Webber (Con)
Martin Whitfield (Lab)

List of committees

Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee (M)

Remit: To consider public petitions addressed to the Parliament in accordance with these Rules (and any additional matter added under Rule 6.1.5A) and, in particular, to—

- (a) decide in a case of dispute whether a petition is admissible;
- (b) decide what action should be taken upon an admissible public petition;
- (c) keep under review the operation of the petitions system; and
- (d) to consider and report on public policy or undertake post-legislative scrutiny through the use of deliberative democracy, Citizen's Assemblies or other forms of participative engagement.

Convener: Jackson Carlaw (Con)

Deputy Convener: David Torrance (SNP)

Members:

Foyso Choudhury (Lab)
Fergus Ewing (SNP)
Alexander Stewart (Con)

Substitute members:

Sharon Dowey (Con)
Marie McNair (SNP)
Paul Sweeney (Lab)

Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee (M)

Remit: To consider and report on the following (and any additional matter added under Rule 6.1.5A)—

- (a) the Scottish Government's EU and external affairs policy;
- (b) policy in relation to the UK's exit from the EU;
- (c) the international activities of the Scottish Administration, including international development; and
- (d) any other matter falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External Affairs and Culture and any matter relating to inter-governmental relations within the responsibility of the Deputy First Minister.

Convener: Clare Adamson (SNP)

Deputy Convener: Donald Cameron (Con)

Members:

Alasdair Allan (SNP)
Neil Bibby (Lab)
Maurice Golden (Con)
Ben Macpherson (SNP)
Mark Ruskell (Green)

Substitute members:

Foysol Choudhury (Lab)
Audrey Nicoll (SNP)
Graham Simpson (Con)

COVID-19 Recovery Committee (S)

Remit: To consider and report on matters relating to COVID-19 falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for COVID Recovery and other Scottish Ministers where relevant, including—

- (a) Cross government coordination of COVID-19 recovery policies and strategic review;
- (b) the operation of powers under the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act, the Coronavirus Act and any other legislation in relation to the response to COVID-19;
- (c) any secondary legislation arising from the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act; and
- (d) and any other legislation or policy in relation to the response to COVID-19.

Convener: Jim Fairlie (SNP)

Deputy Convener: Murdo Fraser (Con)

Members:

John Mason (SNP)
Stuart McMillan (SNP)
Alex Rowley (Lab)
Brian Whittle (Con)

Substitute members:

Jackie Baillie (Lab)
Sandesh Gulhane (Con)
Ash Regan (SNP)

Criminal Justice Committee (S)

Remit: To consider and report on matters relating to criminal justice falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Veterans, and functions of the Lord Advocate other than as head of the systems of criminal prosecution and investigation of deaths in Scotland.

Convener: Audrey Nicoll (SNP)

Deputy Convener: Russell Findlay (Con)

Members:

Katy Clark (Lab)
Jamie Greene (Con)
Fulton MacGregor (SNP)
Rona Mackay (SNP)
Pauline McNeill (Lab)
Collette Stevenson (SNP)

Substitute members:

Neil Bibby (Lab)
Donald Cameron (Con)
Jackie Dunbar (SNP)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee (M)

Remit: To consider and report on the following (and any additional matter added under Rule 6.1.5A)—

(a) any—

(i) subordinate legislation laid before the Parliament or requiring the consent of the Parliament under section 9 of the Public Bodies Act 2011;

(ii) [deleted]

- (iii) pension or grants motion as described in Rule 8.11A.1; and, in particular, to determine whether the attention of the Parliament should be drawn to any of the matters mentioned in Rule 10.3.1;
- (b) proposed powers to make subordinate legislation in particular Bills or other proposed legislation;
- (c) general questions relating to powers to make subordinate legislation;
- (d) whether any proposed delegated powers in particular Bills or other legislation should be expressed as a power to make subordinate legislation;
- (e) any failure to lay an instrument in accordance with section 28(2), 30(2) or 31 of the 2010 Act;
- (f) proposed changes to the procedure to which subordinate legislation laid before the Parliament is subject;
- (g) any Scottish Law Commission Bill as defined in Rule 9.17A.1;
- (h) any draft proposal for a Scottish Law Commission Bill as defined in that Rule; and
- (i) any Consolidation Bill as defined in Rule 9.18.1 referred to it in accordance with Rule 9.18.3.

Convener: Stuart McMillan (SNP)

Deputy Convener: Bill Kidd (SNP)

Members:

Jeremy Balfour (Con)
Oliver Mundell (Con)
Mercedes Villalba (Lab)

Substitute members:

Maurice Golden (Con)
Rhoda Grant (Lab)
Rona Mackay (SNP)

Economy and Fair Work Committee (S)

Remit: To consider and report on matters relating to the economy falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy.

Convener: Claire Baker (Lab)

Deputy Convener: Colin Beattie (SNP)

Members:

Maggie Chapman (Green)
Jamie Halcro Johnston (Con)
Fiona Hyslop (SNP)
Gordon Macdonald (SNP)
Graham Simpson (Con)
Colin Smyth (Lab)
Michelle Thomson (SNP)

Substitute members:

Daniel Johnson (Lab)
John Mason (SNP)
Liz Smith (Con)

Education, Children and Young People Committee (S)

Remit: To consider and report on matters falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills and matters relating to the Historical Abuse Inquiry within the responsibility of the Deputy First Minister.

Convener: Sue Webber (Con)

Deputy Convener: Vacant

Members:

Stephanie Callaghan (SNP)
Bob Doris (SNP)
Pam Duncan-Glancy (Lab)
Ross Greer (Green)
Stephen Kerr (Con)
Bill Kidd (SNP)
Ben Macpherson (SNP)
Ruth Maguire (SNP)
Willie Rennie (LD)

Substitute members:

Alex Cole-Hamilton (LD)
Meghan Gallacher (Con)
Ivan McKee (SNP)
Martin Whitfield (Lab)

Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee (M)

Remit: To consider and report on the following (and any additional matter added under Rule 6.1.5A)—

- (a) matters relating to equal opportunities, and upon the observance of equal opportunities within the Parliament;
- (b) matters relating to human rights; and
- (c) matters relating to civil justice within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Veterans.

Convener: Kaukab Stewart (SNP)

Deputy Convener: Maggie Chapman (Green)

Members:

Karen Adam (SNP)
Pam Gosal (Con)
Rachael Hamilton (Con)
Fulton MacGregor (SNP)
Paul O’Kane (Lab)

Substitute members:

Craig Hoy (Con)
Ben Macpherson (SNP)
Sarah Boyack (Lab)

Finance and Public Administration Committee (M)

Remit: To consider and report on the following (and any additional matter added under Rule 6.1.5A)—

- (a) any report or other document containing proposals for, or budgets of, public revenue or expenditure or proposals for the making of a Scottish rate resolution, taking into account any report or recommendations concerning such documents made by any other committee with power to consider such documents or any part of them;
- (b) any report made by a committee setting out proposals concerning public revenue or expenditure;
- (c) Budget Bills;
- (d) any other matter relating to or affecting the revenue or expenditure of the Scottish Administration or other monies payable into or expenditure payable out of the Scottish Consolidated Fund; and
- (e) matters relating to public service reform and the National Performance Framework within the responsibilities of the Deputy First Minister and public administration.

Convener: John Mason (SNP)

Deputy Convener: Michael Marra (Lab)

Members:

Keith Brown (SNP)
Ross Greer (Green)
Douglas Lumsden (Con)
Liz Smith (Con)
Michelle Thomson (SNP)

Substitute members:

Jamie Halcro Johnston (Con)
Daniel Johnson (Lab)

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee (S)

Remit: To consider and report on matters falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care and matters relating to drugs policy.

Convener: Clare Haughey (SNP)

Deputy Convener: Paul Sweeney (Lab)

Members:

Stephanie Callaghan (SNP)

Sandesh Gulhane (Con)

Emma Harper (SNP)

Gillian Mackay (Green)

Carol Mochan (Lab)

David Torrance (SNP)

Evelyn Tweed (SNP)

Tess White (Con)

Substitute members:

Jackie Baillie (Lab)

James Dornan (SNP)

Sue Webber (Con)

Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee (S)

Remit: To consider and report on matters relating to local government, housing and planning falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government and the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy, and matters relating to the Local Government Boundary Commission and local governance review and democratic renewal within the responsibility of the Deputy First Minister.

Convener: Ariane Burgess (Green)

Deputy Convener: Willie Coffey (SNP)

Members:

Miles Briggs (Con)

Mark Griffin (Lab)

Ivan McKee (SNP)

Marie McNair (SNP)

Annie Wells (Con)

Substitute members:

Murdo Fraser (Con)

Ruth Maguire (SNP)

Alex Rowley (Lab)

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee (S)

Remit: To consider and report on matters falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport, with the exception of matters relating to rural land use, wildlife crime and animal welfare.

Convener: Edward Mountain (Con)

Deputy Convener: Fiona Hyslop (SNP)

Members:

Jackie Dunbar (SNP)

Liam Kerr (Con)

Monica Lennon (Lab)

Ash Regan (SNP)

Mark Ruskell (Green)

Substitute members:

Sarah Boyack (Lab)

Bob Doris (SNP)

Brian Whittle (Con)

Public Audit Committee (M)

Remit: To consider and report on the following (and any additional matter added under Rule 6.1.5A)—

(a) any accounts laid before the Parliament;

(b) any report laid before or made to the Parliament by the Auditor General for Scotland; and

(c) any other document laid before the Parliament, or referred to it by the Parliamentary Bureau or by the Auditor General for Scotland, concerning financial control, accounting and auditing in relation to public expenditure.

Convener: Richard Leonard (Lab)

Deputy Convener: Sharon Dowey (Con)

Members:

Colin Beattie (SNP)

Willie Coffey (SNP)

Craig Hoy (Con)

Substitute members:

Bill Kidd (SNP)

Roz McCall (Con)

Colin Smyth (Lab)

Rural Affairs and Islands Committee (S)

Remit: To consider and report on matters falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands; and on matters relating to rural land use, wildlife crime and animal welfare falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport.

Convener: Finlay Carson (Con)

Deputy Convener: Beatrice Wishart (LD)

Members:

Karen Adam (SNP)
Alasdair Allan (SNP)
Ariane Burgess (Green)
Jim Fairlie (SNP)
Christine Grahame (SNP)
Rhoda Grant (Lab)
Rachael Hamilton (Con)

Substitute members:

Emma Harper (SNP)
Liam McArthur (LD)
Edward Mountain (Con)
Mercedes Villalba (Lab)

Social Justice and Social Security Committee (S)

Remit: To consider and report on matters falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government, excluding matters relating to local government, housing and planning.

Convener: Collette Stevenson (SNP)

Deputy Convener: Gordon MacDonald (SNP)

Members:

Jeremy Balfour (Con)
Miles Briggs (Con)
Katy Clark (Lab)
James Dornan (SNP)
Marie McNair (SNP)
Paul O’Kane (Lab)

Substitute members:

Stephanie Callaghan (SNP)
Mark Griffin (Lab)
Tess White (Con)

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee (M)

Remit: To consider and report on the following (and any additional matter added under Rule 6.1.5A)—

- (a) the practice and procedures of the Parliament in relation to its business;
- (b) whether a member's conduct is in accordance with these Rules and any Code of Conduct for members, matters relating to members interests, and any other matters relating to the conduct of members in carrying out their Parliamentary duties;
- (c) the adoption, amendment and application of any Code of Conduct for members;
- (d) matters relating to public appointments in Scotland;
- (e) matters relating to the regulation of lobbying; and
- (f) matters relating to local government elections, Scottish general elections, implementation of the Referendums (Scotland Act) 2020 and Freedom of Information and open government falling within the responsibility of the Minister for Parliamentary Business.

Convener: Martin Whitfield (Lab)

Deputy Convener: Bob Doris (SNP)

Members:

Emma Harper (SNP)
Edward Mountain (Con)
Alexander Stewart (Con)

Substitute members:

Stephen Kerr (Con)
Rona Mackay (SNP)
Colin Smyth (Lab)

Current number of Scottish Parliament committees

Committee type	Number
Mandatory	7
Subject	9
Total	16

About SPICe

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