



## SPICe Fact Sheet

### Duilleagan Fiosrachaidh SPICe

21 September 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)  
Kenneth Gibson (SNP)  
Clare Haughey (SNP)  
Richard Leonard (Lab)  
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:**

Foysol Choudhury (Lab)  
Fergus Ewing (SNP)  
Maurice Golden (Con)

**Substitute members:**

Marie McNair (SNP)  
Oliver Mundell (Con)  
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.
- (e) matters falling within the responsibility of the Minister for Independence.

**Convener:** Clare Adamson (SNP)

**Deputy Convener:** Donald Cameron (Con)

**Members:**

Neil Bibby (Lab)  
Keith Brown (SNP)  
Kate Forbes (SNP)  
Mark Ruskell (Green)  
Alexander Stewart (Con)

**Substitute members:**

Foyso Choudhury (Lab)  
Pam Gosal (Con)  
Audrey Nicoll (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 Home Affairs, 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)  
Sharon Dowey (Con)  
Fulton MacGregor (SNP)  
Rona Mackay (SNP)  
Pauline McNeill (Lab)  
John Swinney (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:**

Rhoda Grant (Lab)  
Rona Mackay (SNP)  
Alexander Stewart (Con)

## **Economy and Fair Work Committee (S)**

**Remit:** To consider and report on matters falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy with the exception

of matters relating to energy; and on matters relating to just transition within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Just Transition.

**Convener:** Claire Baker (Lab)

**Deputy Convener:** Colin Beattie (SNP)

**Members:**

Maggie Chapman (Green)

Murdo Fraser (Con)

Gordon Macdonald (SNP)

Ash Regan (SNP)

Colin Smyth (Lab)

Kevin Stewart (SNP)

Brian Whittle (Con)

**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 and redress falling within the responsibility of the Deputy First Minister.

**Convener:** Sue Webber (Con)

**Deputy Convener:** Ruth Maguire (SNP)

**Members:**

Stephanie Callaghan (SNP)

Pam Duncan-Glancy (Lab)

Ross Greer (Green)

Liam Kerr (Con)

Bill Kidd (SNP)

Ben Macpherson (SNP)

Willie Rennie (LD)

Michelle Thomson (SNP)

**Substitute members:**

Alex Cole-Hamilton (LD)

Roz McCall (Con)

Stuart McMillan (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; and
- b. matters relating to human rights.
- c. matters relating to civil justice within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs.

### 2. In these Rules

(a) “equal opportunities” includes the prevention, elimination or regulation of discrimination between persons on grounds of sex or marital status, on racial grounds or on grounds of disability, age, sexual orientation, language or social origin or of other personal attributes, including beliefs or opinions such as religious beliefs or political opinions; and

(b) “human rights” includes Convention rights (within the meaning of section 1 of the Human Rights Act 1998) and other human rights as for example contained in any international convention, treaty or other international instrument ratified by the United Kingdom.

**Convener:** Kaukab Stewart (SNP)

**Deputy Convener:** Maggie Chapman (Green)

#### **Members:**

Karen Adam (SNP)

Meghan Gallacher (Con)

Fulton MacGregor (SNP)

Paul O’Kane (Lab)

Annie Wells (Con)

#### **Substitute members:**

Craig Hoy (Con)

Sarah Boyack (Lab)

Kevin Stewart (SNP)

## **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:** Kenneth Gibson (SNP)

**Deputy Convener:** Michael Marra (Lab)

**Members:**

Ross Greer (Green)  
Jamie Halcro Johnston (Con)  
John Mason (SNP)  
Liz Smith (Con)  
Michelle Thomson (SNP)

**Substitute members:**

Murdo Fraser (Con)  
Daniel Johnson (Lab)  
Gordon MacDonald (SNP)

## **Health, Social Care and Sport Committee (S)**

**Remit:** To consider and report on matters falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care and matters relating to drugs and alcohol 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 and planning falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and matters relating to housing and tenants' rights within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 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)

Pam Gosal (Con)

Ivan McKee (SNP)

Marie McNair (SNP)

### **Substitute members:**

Ruth Maguire (SNP)

Alex Rowley (Lab)

Graham Simpson (Con)



## 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 and Just Transition, with the exception of matters relating to just transition; on matters relating to land reform, natural resources and peatland, Scottish Land Commission; Crown Estate Scotland, and Royal Botanic Garden within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands; and on matters relating to energy within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy

**Convener:** Edward Mountain (Con)

**Deputy Convener:** Ben Macpherson

### Members:

Jackie Dunbar (SNP)  
Monica Lennon (Lab)  
Douglas Lumsden (Con)  
Ash Regan (SNP)  
Mark Ruskell (Green)

### Substitute members:

Sarah Boyack (Lab)  
Jim Fairlie (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)  
Graham Simpson (Con)

### Substitute members:

Craig Hoy (Con)  
Bill Kidd (SNP)  
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, Land Reform and Islands, with the exception of matters relating to land reform, natural resources and peatland, Scottish Land Commission, Crown Estate Scotland, and Royal Botanic Garden.

**Convener:** Finlay Carson (Con)

**Deputy Convener:** Beatrice Wishart (LD)

### Members:

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

### Substitute members:

Christine Grahame (SNP)  
Jamie Halcro Johnston (Con)  
Liam McArthur (LD)  
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 excluding matters relating to housing and tenants' rights.

**Convener:** Collette Stevenson (SNP)

**Deputy Convener:** Bob Doris (SNP)

### Members:

Jeremy Balfour (Con)  
Katy Clark (Lab)  
James Dornan (SNP)  
Roz McCall (Con)  
Marie McNair (SNP)  
Paul O'Kane (Lab)

### Substitute members:

Miles Briggs (Con)  
Stephanie Callaghan (SNP)  
Mark Griffin (Lab)

## 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 falling within the responsibility of the Minister for Parliamentary Business.

2. Where the Committee considers it appropriate, it may by motion recommend that a member's rights and privileges be withdrawn to such extent and for such period as are specified in the motion.

**Convener:** Martin Whitfield (Lab)

**Deputy Convener:** Ivan McKee (SNP)

**Members:**

Stephen Kerr (Con)  
Evelyn Tweed (SNP)  
Annie Wells (Con)

**Substitute members:**

Alasdair Allan (SNP)  
Edward Mountain (Con)  
Colin Smyth (Lab)

## Current number of Scottish Parliament committees

| Committee type | Number    |
|----------------|-----------|
| Mandatory      | 7         |
| Subject        | 8         |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>15</b> |

### About SPICe

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