

Wednesday 23 May 2018

# Business Bulletin

*Iris Ghnothaichean*

Revised at 3:20pm



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Chamber Desk - Bank holiday deadlines

### Motions and amendments

The deadline for lodging a motion for debate on Tuesday 29 May is 4.00pm on Wednesday 23 May and for lodging amendments to these motions is 4.00pm on Thursday 24 May. The deadline for lodging a motion for debate on Wednesday 30 May is 4.00pm on Thursday 24 May and for lodging amendments to these motions is 4.00pm on Tuesday 29 May.

### Topical Questions

The deadline for lodging a topical question for answer on 29 May is 9.30am on Tuesday 29 May.

### First Minister's Questions

The deadline for lodging a question for answer on 31 May is 9.30am on Tuesday 29 May.

### Ballot for Portfolio Questions and General Questions

The deadline for lodging names for the ballot for general and portfolio questions is 12 noon on Thursday 24 May (questions to be lodged on Wednesday 30 May for answer on Wednesday 6 and Thursday 7 June).

### Other motions, amendments and written questions

The deadline for lodging other motions, amendments and written questions is 4.00pm on Thursday 24 May.

## Today's Business

### Meeting of the Parliament

**2:00 pm** Parliamentary Bureau Motions

**2:00 pm** Portfolio Questions

**followed by** Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party Debate: Education: Subject Choices

**followed by** Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party Debate: Housing

**followed by** Business Motions

**followed by** Parliamentary Bureau Motions

**5:00 pm** Decision Time

**followed by** Members' Business — S5M-12184 Bruce Crawford: 10 Years of Sistema Scotland and the Big Noise Orchestra

### Committee Meetings

**9:30am** Local Government and Communities Committee

**10:00am** Education and Skills Committee

**10:00am** Finance and Constitution Committee

**10:00am** Pow of Inchaffray Drainage Commission (Scotland) Bill Committee

**10:00am** Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee

## Meeting of the Parliament

### 2:00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

### 2:00 pm Portfolio Questions

#### Economy, Jobs and Fair Work

- 1. Jackie Baillie:** To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to figures from the Scottish Retail Consortium suggesting that town centre vacancy rates have reached a seven-year high. ([S5O-02117](#))
- 2. Murdo Fraser:** To ask the Scottish Government what the impact is on businesses in Scotland of having access to the UK domestic market. ([S5O-02118](#))
- 3. Joan McAlpine:** To ask the Scottish Government what recent discussions it has had with the UK Government regarding the Borderlands Growth Deal. ([S5O-02119](#))
- 4. Clare Haughey:** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on its engagement with stakeholders and others regarding the closure of the 2 Sisters Food Group factory in Cambuslang. ([S5O-02120](#))
- 5. Anas Sarwar:** To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to recent figures showing that Scottish productivity has fallen 1.9% in real terms. ([S5O-02121](#))
- 6. Claire Baker:** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to support the Fife economy. ([S5O-02122](#))
- 7. Michelle Ballantyne:** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to improve labour productivity. ([S5O-02123](#))
- 8. Alexander Stewart:** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to support retailers and reduce the number of vacant premises on high streets. ([S5O-02124](#))
- 9. Mary Fee:** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to increase the number of female STEM apprentices in West Scotland. ([S5O-02125](#))
- 10. Neil Bibby:** To ask the Scottish Government when it last met Peel Ports to discuss the future of Inchgreen Drydock, and what other issues were discussed. ([S5O-02126](#))

#### Finance and the Constitution

- 1. Mairi Gougeon:** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on its discussions with the UK Government in light of the Parliament's decision to not consent to the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill. ([S5O-02127](#))
- 2. Johann Lamont:** To ask the Scottish Government whether the finance secretary considers that Glasgow City Council has received sufficient funding for 2018-19. ([S5O-02128](#))
- 3. Ivan McKee:** To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on extending the voting franchise to all EU and non-EU adults who are resident in Scotland. ([S5O-02129](#))
- 4. Richard Lyle:** To ask the Scottish Government what mechanism is in place to allow a council tax payer to appeal against a banding that they consider incorrect. ([S5O-02130](#))
- 5. George Adam:** To ask the Scottish Government, in light of recent developments regarding the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill, what its position is on the views expressed during the independence referendum that a "yes" vote would mean Scotland would be taken out of the EU and a "no" vote would see it granted new powers as an equal part of the UK. ([S5O-02131](#))

**6. James Kelly:** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the statement by the First Minister in June 2017, whether it plans to hold a second independence referendum in the Autumn. ([S5O-02132](#))

**7. Ash Denham:** To ask the Scottish Government how its fiscal policy supports first-time buyers. ([S5O-02133](#))

**8. Tom Arthur:** To ask the Scottish Government how many businesses receive support from the Small Business Bonus Scheme in the Renfrewshire South constituency. ([S5O-02134](#))

**9. Neil Findlay:** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking through its fiscal policy to reduce wealth inequality. ([S5O-02135](#))

**10. Andy Wightman:** To ask the Scottish Government what information it collects to assess the extent and nature of behavioural responses to income tax policy. ([S5O-02136](#))

### followed by Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party Debate: Education: Subject Choices

**S5M-12358 Liz Smith: Education: Subject Choices**—That the Parliament notes with concern evidence that shows that, for a substantial number of schools across Scotland, subject choice for S4 pupils has been reduced; believes that this is an unintended consequence of the current structure of Curriculum for Excellence, which also has implications for subject choice in S5 and S6; further believes that this situation is exacerbated by teacher shortages in key subjects, and calls for the Scottish Government to work with local authorities to urgently ensure that all schools adhere to the commitment to provide young people and parents with full details about subject choice options.

The Presiding Officer has selected the following amendments

**S5M-12358.4 John Swinney: Education: Subject Choices**—As an amendment to motion S5M-12358 in the name of Liz Smith (Education: Subject Choices), insert at end “; recognises that the most significant measure of achievement is when pupils leave school after the three-year senior phase as this defines pupils’ success in accessing work, training or education; congratulates pupils and students across Scotland who have collectively achieved more than 150,000 Higher passes for the third year in a row, including a 4% increase since 2013; welcomes the fact that 93.7% of 2016-17 senior phase school leavers were in a positive initial destination; further welcomes the fact that the proportion of young people in the most deprived areas getting one or more qualifications at SCQF levels 4, 5 and 6 is increasing faster than those in the least deprived areas; agrees that all schools and local authorities across Scotland should be innovative in providing greater choices for young people through creative timetabling and partnership approaches with nearby schools and other partners, such as the Advanced Higher hub at Glasgow Caledonian University, the Virtual School network in The Highland Council and the e-sgoil that has been established in the Western Isles, and further agrees that further work is needed to understand what is on offer to pupils and students, including mapping the availability of Advanced Higher provision across Scotland in line with the recommendation of *The 15-24 Learner Journey Review*.”

**S5M-12358.1 Iain Gray: Education: Subject Choices**—As an amendment to motion S5M-12358 in the name of Liz Smith (Education: Subject Choices), insert at end “; recognises that there remains a stubborn attainment gap between pupils from the most and least deprived families; notes concerns that the narrowing of curricular choice may be greater in schools in the most deprived areas, and calls for action on this issue and in closing the attainment gap.”

## followed by Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party Debate: Housing

**S5M-12342 Graham Simpson: Housing**—That the Parliament believes that existing legislation is inadequate in dealing with the condition of Scotland's tenement housing stock; backs calls for changes to legislation including, for example, having mandatory building health checks; believes that property factors can play a part in a new system; considers that there are property factor companies that perform their duties well, but that there are some that are performing poorly; acknowledges the limited role of the First-tier Tribunal for Scotland (Housing and Property Chamber) in improving the performance of property factors and considers that the system for members of the public to make complaints should be improved; believes that there is a need for a more robust process to remove property factors that repeatedly break the property factors code of conduct or duties, and calls on the Scottish Government to review the current system.

The Presiding Officer has selected the following amendments

**S5M-12342.3 Kevin Stewart: Housing**—As an amendment to motion S5M-12342 in the name of Graham Simpson (Housing), leave out from "existing legislation" to "in a new system" and insert "tenement housing stock, as defined in the Tenements (Scotland) Act 2004, is an important housing sector for many people in Scotland and that maintenance of this stock is vital for all those owning and living in the sector and to wider society; notes the creation and ongoing work of the cross-party supported Working Group on Maintenance of Tenement Scheme Property; agrees that a review should be carried out of relevant existing legislation and of how tenement housing in Scotland could potentially be better maintained and enhanced, which should include consideration of the potential costs and impact of mandatory building health checks, new initiatives that would help facilitate owners to collectively undertake maintenance of tenement communal property, and what is the best role for property factors".

**S5M-12342.2 Pauline McNeill: Housing**—As an amendment to motion S5M-12342 in the name of Graham Simpson (Housing), leave out from "including" to end and insert "following a thorough review of the gaps in existing law, which would include the consideration of mandatory building health checks; believes that property factors can play a part in a new system; considers that there are property factor companies that perform their duties well, but that there are some that are performing poorly; acknowledges the limited role of the First-tier Tribunal for Scotland (Housing and Property Chamber) in improving the performance of property factors and considers that the system for members of the public to make complaints should be improved; believes that there is a need for a more robust process to remove property factors that repeatedly break the property factors code of conduct or duties; calls on the Scottish Government to review the current system, and believes that more should be done to encourage owners to set up co-operative arrangements as an alternative to factoring to assist in the management of their properties."

## followed by Business Motions

**S5M-12387 Joe FitzPatrick on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: Business Motion**—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 29 May 2018

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Topical Questions (if selected)

*followed by* Stage 1 Debate: Planning (Scotland) Bill

*followed by* Financial Resolution: Planning (Scotland) Bill

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Wednesday 30 May 2018

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Stage 3 Proceedings: Islands (Scotland) Bill

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.45 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Thursday 31 May 2018

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

*followed by* Members' Business

2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.30 pm Portfolio Questions: Rural Economy and Connectivity; Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform

*followed by* Stage 3 Proceedings: Housing (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 5 June 2018

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Topical Questions (if selected)

*followed by* Scottish Government Business

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Wednesday 6 June 2018

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Culture, Tourism and External Affairs; Justice and the Law Officers  
*followed by* Stage 3 Proceedings: Historical Sexual Offences (Pardons and Disregards) (Scotland) Bill

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Thursday 7 June 2018

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

*followed by* Members' Business

2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.30 pm Scottish Government Business

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

and (b) that, in relation to First Minister's Questions on 31 May 2018, in rule 13.6.2, insert at end "and may provide an opportunity for Party Leaders or their representatives to question the First Minister".

**[S5M-12388](#) Joe FitzPatrick on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: Prescription (Scotland) Bill**—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Prescription (Scotland) Bill at stage 1 be extended to 29 June 2017.

**followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions**

**[S5M-12389](#) Joe FitzPatrick on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: Code of Conduct for Councillors**—That the Parliament agrees that the Code of Conduct for Councillors (SG/2018/65) be approved.

**5:00 pm Decision Time**

**followed by Members' Business**  
**Debate on the subject of—**

**[S5M-12184](#) Bruce Crawford: 10 Years of Sistema Scotland and the Big Noise Orchestra**—That the Parliament commends Sistema Scotland and the Big Noise Orchestra project on celebrating a decade of delivering transformative opportunities to children in a number of communities across Scotland; notes that the Big Noise Orchestra project was set up in Raploch, Stirling, and now provides opportunities for children in the Govanhill area of Glasgow, Torry in Aberdeen and, most recently, in Douglas, Dundee; notes the project's aims of encouraging

creativity and confidence and helping to nurture a new generation in a growing number of communities across the country, and wishes it well.

## Committee Meetings

All meetings take place in the Scottish Parliament, unless otherwise specified.

### Local Government and Communities Committee 17th Meeting, 2018

The Committee will meet at 9:30 am in the James Clerk Maxwell Room (CR4)

1. **Alcohol licensing in Scotland:** The Committee will take evidence, in a roundtable format, from—
  - Laura Mahon, Deputy Chief Executive, Alcohol Focus Scotland;
  - Mairi Millar, Clerk, City of Glasgow Licensing Board;
  - Fiona Stewart, Depute Clerk, North Aberdeenshire Licensing Board;
  - Susan Elliot, Alcohol and Drugs Partnership Coordinator, NHS Borders and Member of the Scottish Borders Local Licensing Forum;
  - Stuart Wilson, Chairman, East Ayrshire Licensing Forum;
  - Chief Inspector Alison Kennedy, Safer Communities, Police Scotland;
  - Roger Colkett, Tollcross Community Council;
  - John Shearer, President, Scottish Licensed Trade Association;
  - John Lee, Head of Policy and Public Affairs, Scottish Grocers Federation.
2. **Accessing greenspaces in Scotland:** The Committee will take evidence, in a roundtable format, from—
  - Julie Procter, Chief Executive, Greenspace Scotland;
  - Dr Matt Lowther, Head of Place and Equity, NHS Health Scotland;
  - Colin Rennie, Manager, Scotland, Fields in Trust Scotland;
  - Bruce Wilson, Scottish Environment LINK (and Scottish Wildlife Trust);
  - Kevin O'Kane, Greenspace Officer, Fife Council;
  - John Kerr, Chair, Edinburgh Green Spaces Forum.
3. **Alcohol licensing in Scotland (in private):** The Committee will consider the evidence heard earlier in the meeting.
4. **Accessing greenspaces in Scotland (in private):** The Committee will consider the evidence heard earlier in the meeting.

### Education and Skills Committee Meeting, 2018

The Committee will meet at 10:00 am in the Robert Burns Room (CR1)

1. **Attainment and Achievement of School Aged Children Experiencing Poverty:** The Committee will hear evidence from—
  - Gayle Gorman, Chief Inspector of Education and Chief Executive, Elizabeth Morrison, Interim Strategic Director, Louise Turnbull, HM Inspector and Interim Assistant Director, and Gail Copland, Attainment Advisor, Education Scotland;
 and then from—
  - John Swinney, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, Fiona Robertson, Director of Learning, and Graeme Logan, Deputy Director Strategy and Performance, Scottish Government.
2. **Review of evidence (in private):** The Committee will consider the evidence it heard earlier.

### Finance and Constitution Committee



## 17th Meeting, 2018

The Committee will meet at 10:00 am in the David Livingstone Room (CR6)

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take item 3 in private.
2. **Scotland Act 2012 and 2016 Implementation Reports:** The Committee will take evidence from—  
Derek Mackay, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution, Scottish Government.
3. **Annual report:** The Committee will consider a draft annual report for the parliamentary year from 12 May 2017 to 11 May 2018.

## Pow of Inchaffray Drainage Commission (Scotland) Bill Committee 4th Meeting, 2018

The Committee will meet at 10:00 am in the Sir Alexander Fleming Room (CR3)

1. **Pow of Inchaffray Drainage Commission (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee will consider the merits of the three objections to the Bill.
2. **Pow of Inchaffray Drainage Commission (Scotland) Bill (in private):** The Committee will consider a draft Consideration Stage report.

## Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee 16th Meeting, 2018

The Committee will meet at 10:00 am in the Mary Fairfax Somerville Room (CR2)

1. **Major transport infrastructure projects update:** The Committee will take evidence from—  
Keith Brown, Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work, and Michelle Rennie, Director, Major Transport Infrastructure Projects, Scottish Government.
2. **Annual report:** The Committee will consider a draft annual report for the parliamentary year from 12 May 2017 to 11 May 2018.
3. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee will consider the following negative instrument—  
The Plant Health (Export Certification) (Scotland) Order 2018 (SSI 2018/132).

## Contacts for Further Information

All telephone numbers 0131 348 XXXX

Web site: <http://www.parliament.scot>

|   |      |
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