

Thursday 30 January 2020

# Business Bulletin

*Iris Ghnothaichean*

Revised at 11:55am



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Announcement - Royal Assent

The Referendums (Scotland) Act 2020 received Royal Assent on Wednesday 29 January 2020.

## Today's Business

Subject to the Parliament's agreement of S5M-20668, today's business will be as follows:

### Meeting of the Parliament

**11:40 am** Parliamentary Bureau Motions  
**11:40 am** General Questions  
**12:00 pm** First Minister's Questions  
**12:45 pm** Members' Business — S5M-19810  
Keith Brown: Public Works Loan Board Rate  
**2:00 pm** Parliamentary Bureau Motions  
**2:00 pm** Portfolio Questions  
**followed by** Ministerial Statement: EU Exit  
**followed by** Scottish Government Debate:  
Drugs and Alcohol – Preventing and  
Reducing Harms  
**followed by** Financial Resolution: Scottish  
Biometrics Commissioner Bill  
**followed by** Business Motions  
**followed by** Parliamentary Bureau Motions  
**5:00 pm** Decision Time

### Committee Meetings

**9:00am** Culture, Tourism, Europe and  
External Affairs Committee  
**9:00am** Public Audit and Post-legislative  
Scrutiny Committee  
**9:15am** Public Petitions Committee  
**9:30am** Standards, Procedures and Public  
Appointments Committee  
**10:00am** Social Security Committee  
**1:00pm** Justice Sub-Committee on Policing

## Meeting of the Parliament

Subject to the Parliament's agreement of S5M-20668, today's business will be as follows:

### 11:40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

### 11:40 am General Questions

**1. Gordon MacDonald:** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking in response to the UK Government proceeding to take the UK out of the EU on 31 January through the EU Withdrawal Agreement Bill, despite the decision by the Scottish Parliament and the other devolved legislatures not to consent to the Bill. ([S5O-04077](#))

**2. Liz Smith:** To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to reported comments by Transport Scotland officials that the volume of traffic on the Queensferry Crossing is beyond what the bridge was designed for. ([S5O-04078](#))

**3. Willie Coffey:** To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has in place to ensure that Scotland remains part of the digital economy in Europe post-Brexit. ([S5O-04079](#))

**4. Linda Fabiani:** To ask the Scottish Government what involvement it has in UK-EU talks. ([S5O-04080](#))

**5. Shona Robison:** To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has to review the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse, Clare's Law, to ensure that people deemed at risk are protected. ([S5O-04081](#))

**6. John Finnie:** To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has for improving rail infrastructure in the Highlands. ([S5O-04082](#))

**7. Jamie Greene:** To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it has undertaken regarding the reported rise in student debt. ([S5O-04083](#))

**8. Brian Whittle:** To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on whether trunk road improvements have the potential to reduce harmful emissions and improve air quality. ([S5O-04084](#))

**9. Fulton MacGregor:** To ask the Scottish Government what action is being taken to reduce the use of herbicides containing the chemical, glyphosate. ([S5O-04085](#))

**10. Clare Adamson:** To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with the UK Government regarding the economic impact assessment of the EU Withdrawal Agreement and how this applies to Scotland. ([S5O-04086](#))

### 12:00 pm First Minister's Questions

**1. Jackson Carlaw:** Question to be taken in Chamber. ([S5F-03896](#))

**2. Richard Leonard:** Question to be taken in Chamber. ([S5F-03897](#))

**3. Patrick Harvie:** Question to be taken in Chamber. ([S5F-03899](#))

**4. Willie Rennie:** Question to be taken in Chamber. ([S5F-03909](#))

**5. Emma Harper:** To ask the First Minister whether she will provide an update on the impact of minimum unit pricing of alcohol. ([S5F-03921](#))

**6. Liam Kerr:** To ask the First Minister what the Scottish Government's response is to reports that Scottish Prison Service officers average three weeks' sickness leave per year. ([S5F-03904](#))

**7. Monica Lennon:** To ask the First Minister what action the Scottish Government is taking to work with football authorities and clubs to reduce problem gambling. ([S5F-03917](#))

## 12:45 pm Members' Business — S5M-19810 Keith Brown: Public Works Loan Board Rate

**[S5M-19810](#) Keith Brown: Public Works Loan Board Rate**—That the Parliament condemns the recent UK Treasury announcement of an increase in the rate of borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) by one percentage point; understands that the PWLB lends money to local authorities for community infrastructure projects; is concerned by the implications of this percentage-point hike in interest rates on Scottish councils' abilities, including Clackmannanshire Council, to carry out crucial infrastructure developments, such as affordable housing, schools, leisure and regeneration projects; agrees with a number of local authorities that this increase is paramount to the UK Government "profiteering at the expense of council tax payers"; recognises the detrimental impact that this move will have on infrastructure projects in Clackmannanshire and Dunblane and other local authority areas across Scotland, and acknowledges calls on the UK Government to reconsider its decision.

## 2:00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

**[S5M-20668](#) Graeme Dey on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: Business Motion**—That the Parliament agrees to the following revision to the programme of business for Thursday 30 January 2020—

after

*followed by* Scottish Government Debate: Drugs and Alcohol – Preventing and Reducing Harms insert

*followed by* Financial Resolution: Scottish Biometrics Commissioner Bill

## 2:00 pm Portfolio Questions

### Social Security and Older People

**1. Edward Mountain:** To ask the Scottish Government when it last met The Highland Council and NHS Highland to discuss social isolation and loneliness. ([S5O-04069](#))

**2. Bill Kidd:** To ask the Scottish Government how many children will be eligible for the Scottish Child Payment when it goes live. ([S5O-04070](#))

**3. Liam Kerr:** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to protect vulnerable older people. ([S5O-04071](#))

**4. Alexander Burnett:** To ask the Scottish Government what action it takes to ensure that older and disabled people can easily access local services. ([S5O-04072](#))

**5. Dean Lockhart:** To ask the Scottish Government what progress it is making in taking forward the proposals in its paper, *A Fairer Scotland for Older People*. ([S5O-04073](#))

**6. Jeremy Balfour:** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to promote intergenerational work to support older people. ([S5O-04074](#))

**7. Finlay Carson:** To ask the Scottish Government how it tackles social isolation among older people in rural communities. ([S5O-04075](#))

**8. Alasdair Allan:** To ask the Scottish Government what impact the UK Government's welfare reforms are having on low-income families in Scotland that include a disabled person. ([S5O-04076](#))

**followed by Ministerial Statement: EU Exit**

**followed by Scottish Government Debate: Drugs and Alcohol – Preventing and Reducing Harms**

**[S5M-20635](#) Joe FitzPatrick: Drugs and Alcohol: Preventing and Reducing Harms**—That the Parliament believes that Scotland faces a public health emergency in terms of drug-related deaths, and that addressing this issue requires a public health-led approach; agrees that reducing the harms caused by alcohol and other drugs requires concerted action at all levels of public services and society; recognises that adverse childhood experiences and health inequalities both contribute to alcohol and drug-related deaths, and that stigma remains a significant barrier to people seeking treatment and support; welcomes the work to date of the Drug Deaths Taskforce, including its efforts to improve access and distribution of naloxone, optimised use of medically-assisted treatment, and piloting assertive outreach to support the most vulnerable; notes that the current Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 is not fit for purpose and poses a barrier to a public health-led approach, which has shown benefits in Portugal, British Columbia and elsewhere, and therefore calls on the UK Government to reform the Act or devolve powers to allow this Parliament to take further action to save lives.

The Presiding Officer has selected the following amendments

**[S5M-20635.1](#) Miles Briggs: Drugs and Alcohol: Preventing and Reducing Harms**—As an amendment to motion S5M-20635 in the name of Joe FitzPatrick (Drugs and Alcohol: Preventing and Reducing Harms), leave out from "; notes" to end and insert ", and calls on the Scottish Government to provide £15.4 million for residential rehabilitation beds in the upcoming Scottish Budget."

**[S5M-20635.3](#) Monica Lennon: Drugs and Alcohol: Preventing and Reducing Harms**—As an amendment to motion S5M-20635 in the name of Joe Fitzpatrick (Drugs and Alcohol: Preventing and Reducing Harms), after first "public health-led approach;" insert "acknowledges that there were 1,187 drug-related deaths and 1,136 alcohol-related deaths in 2018; is concerned by reports that the number of drug-related deaths could increase further for 2019; considers up-to-date information and data to be crucial for understanding the extent and cause of drug-related deaths, as well as informing preventative interventions from public services; believes delays to forensic toxicology reports for deaths reported to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service are therefore unacceptable; recognises the role of frontline staff, volunteers, families and the wider recovery community in supporting people affected by substance misuse; affirms the need for adequate funding of treatment and recovery services following the £40 million cumulative real terms reduction in alcohol and drug partnerships funding between 2014-15 and 2018-19, which negatively impacted the provision and capacity of essential addiction services;"

**[S5M-20635.2](#) Alex Cole-Hamilton: Drugs and Alcohol: Preventing and Reducing Harms**—As an amendment to motion S5M-20635 in the name of Joe FitzPatrick (Drugs and Alcohol:

Preventing and Reducing Harms), insert at end “, for example, by extending the involvement of the Scottish Government in the development of UK-wide policy frameworks on drugs; agrees with the Scottish Affairs Committee that there is undoubtedly more that the Scottish Government can do within its existing powers to address problem drug use, and calls on the Scottish Government to coordinate a plan for a Scotland-wide network of heroin-assisted treatment facilities, divert people caught in possession of drugs for personal use into treatment and cease imprisonment in these cases, helping save lives.”

**followed by Financial Resolution: Scottish Biometrics Commissioner Bill**

**[S5M-20662](#) Derek Mackay: Scottish Biometrics Commissioner Bill: Financial Resolution—**

That the Parliament, for the purposes of any Act of the Scottish Parliament resulting from the Scottish Biometrics Commissioner Bill, agrees to any expenditure of a kind referred to in Rule 9.12.3(b) of the Parliament’s Standing Orders arising in consequence of the Act.

**followed by Business Motions**

**followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions**

**5:00 pm Decision Time**

## Committee Meetings

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

### Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee 4th Meeting, 2020

The Committee will meet at 9:00 am in the Robert Burns Room (CR1)

1. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee will take evidence on the Census (Scotland) Order 2020 (SSI 2020/draft) from—  
Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs, and Scott Matheson, Senior Principal Legal Officer, Scottish Government;  
Pete Whitehouse, Director of Statistical Services, Scott McEwen, Head of Policy and Legislation, Scotland's Census 2021, and Jill Morton, Senior Business Lead, Questions and Collection Instruments, National Records of Scotland.
2. **Consideration of evidence (in private):** The Committee will take consider the evidence heard earlier in the meeting.
3. **Work programme (in private):** The Committee will consider its work programme.

### Public Audit and Post-legislative Scrutiny Committee 4th Meeting, 2020

The Committee will meet at 9:00 am in the Adam Smith Room (CR5)

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take items 3 and 5 in private.
2. **Section 23 report - Scotland's City Region and Growth Deals:** The Committee will take evidence from—  
  
Caroline Gardner, Auditor General for Scotland;  
Graeme Greenhill, Senior Manager, Sally Thompson, Audit Manager, and Derek Hoy, Audit Manager, Performance Audit and Best Value, Audit Scotland.
3. **Section 23 report - Scotland's City Region and Growth Deals:** The Committee will consider the evidence heard at agenda item 2 and take further evidence from—  
Caroline Gardner, Auditor General for Scotland;  
Graeme Greenhill, Senior Manager, Sally Thompson, Audit Manager, and Derek Hoy, Audit Manager, Performance Audit and Best Value, Audit Scotland.
4. **Section 22 report - The 2018/19 audit of the Scottish Prison Service (in private):** The Committee will consider a revised draft report.
5. **Work programme:** The Committee will consider its work programme.

### Public Petitions Committee 2nd Meeting, 2020

The Committee will meet at 9:15 am in the Mary Fairfax Somerville Room (CR2)

1. **Consideration of continued petitions:** The Committee will consider the following continued petitions—

PE1319 on Improving youth football in Scotland and will take evidence from Ian Maxwell, Chief Executive and Alyson Evans, Child Wellbeing and Protection Manager, Scottish FA;

PE1600 on Speed Awareness Courses;

PE1671 on Sale and use of glue traps;

PE1674 on Managing the Cat Population in Scotland; and

PE1709 on Install CCTV cameras and provide full time social work support in all additional support needs schools.

2. **Consideration of new petitions:** The Committee will consider the following new petitions—  
PE1766 on Legal aid for private criminal prosecutions for unwaged and/or learning-disabled victims of abuse;  
PE1768 on Children Hearing proceedings should be minuted and or recorded;  
PE1769 on Higher Education in Scotland;  
PE1772 on Ban Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender teaching and sexual pictures from the school curriculum;  
PE1773 on Reform rape law; and  
PE1777 on To introduce British Sign Language (BSL) into the Curriculum for Excellence.

### **Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee 3rd Meeting, 2020**

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

1. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee will take evidence on the Representation of the People (Data Matching) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 [draft] and the Representation of the People (Annual Canvass) Amendment (Scotland) Order 2020 [draft] from—  
Graeme Dey, Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans;  
Ewan McCaig, Solicitor, Legal Directorate, Maria McCann, Head of Elections Team, and Kenneth Pentland, Senior Policy Officer, Scottish Government.
2. **Subordinate legislation:** Graeme Dey to move—S5M-20563—That the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee recommends that the Representation of the People (Data Matching) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 [draft] be approved.
3. **Subordinate legislation:** Graeme Dey to move—S5M-20564—That the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee recommends that the Representation of the People (Annual Canvass) Amendment (Scotland) Order 2020 [draft] be approved.
4. **Committee Bill on financial assistance for opposition parties (in private):** The Committee will consider its proposal report.

### **Social Security Committee 3rd Meeting, 2020**

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. **Scottish Child Payment:** The Committee will take evidence on the Scottish Commission on Social Security's scrutiny report on draft regulations from—  
Dr Sally Witcher, Chair, and Dr Mark Simpson, Member, Scottish Commission on Social Security.
3. **Scottish Child Payment:** The Committee will consider the evidence heard.

## Justice Sub-Committee on Policing 2nd Meeting, 2020

The Committee will meet at 1.00 pm in the David Livingstone Room (CR6)

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Sub-Committee will decide whether its consideration of a draft report on Facial Recognition should be taken in private, at this meeting and any future meetings.
2. **Facial recognition: how policing in Scotland makes use of this technology:** The Sub-Committee will consider a draft report.



## Contacts for Further Information

All telephone numbers 0131 348 XXXX

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

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Parliamentary Business Team (Chamber, Parliamentary Bureau)	5187
Legislation Team	5277
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### Committee web sites at:

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/committees.aspx>

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<a href="#">Delegated Powers and Law Reform</a>	5212
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### Parliamentary Bureau

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### The Conveners Group

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/21516.aspx>

### Scottish Commission for Public Audit

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/101154.aspx>

### MSP Details

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/msps.aspx>

### Glossary

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/help/769.aspx>

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