

Tuesday 17 March 2020

Business Bulletin

Iris Ghnothaichean

Revised at 4:30pm



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Topicals and FMQs

The Presiding Officer has not selected any Topical Questions for Tuesday 17 March. There is a ministerial statement today on Novel coronavirus COVID-19.

The Presiding Officer has selected party leader questions only for First Minister's Questions on Thursday 19 March. He will, as usual, call local and constituency supplementary questions after question 2, and there will be a longer opportunity for members to seek to ask open questions after question 4.

Today's Business

Meeting of the Parliament

2:00 pm Time for Reflection: Rev Fiona Bennett, United Reformed Church Honorary Chaplain, and Minister, Augustine United Reformed Church, George IV Bridge

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Ministerial Statement: Novel coronavirus COVID-19 update

followed by Scottish Government Debate: OECD Review of Curriculum for Excellence

followed by Legislative Consent Motion: Sentencing (Pre-Consolidation Amendments) Bill

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5:45 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business — S5M-21178 Elaine Smith: 15th Anniversary of the Breastfeeding etc. (Scotland) Act 2005

Committee Meetings

9:30am Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee

9:30am Health and Sport Committee

9:45am Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee

10:00am Justice Committee

Meeting of the Parliament

2:00 pm Time for Reflection: Rev Fiona Bennett, United Reformed Church Honorary Chaplain, and Minister, Augustine United Reformed Church, George IV Bridge

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Ministerial Statement: Novel coronavirus COVID-19 update

followed by Scottish Government Debate: OECD Review of Curriculum for Excellence

[S5M-21263](#) John Swinney: OECD Review of Curriculum for Excellence—That the Parliament confirms its support for the establishment of an independently-led review of curriculum for excellence; notes the publication of the remit for the OECD-led review; further notes that the remit covers curriculum design, the depth and breadth of learning in the Senior Phase, local flexibility versus increased prescription, the transition from the Broad General Education into the Senior Phase, vocational and academic learning and awards, and roles and responsibilities in relation to the curriculum; recognises that this remit has been informed by the work of the Education and Skills Committee, including its report, *Subject choices in schools*; agrees that this review must form part of a wider drive to tackle key weaknesses in aspects of Scotland's school education and the qualifications structure, and further agrees that benefits that can be derived from all participants in the education system working together as part of a shared national endeavour to ensure Scotland's curriculum helps support Scotland's young people achieving the best possible outcomes.

followed by Legislative Consent Motion: Sentencing (Pre-Consolidation Amendments) Bill

[S5M-21260](#) Humza Yousaf: Sentencing (Pre-consolidation Amendments) Bill - UK Legislation—That the Parliament agrees that the relevant provisions of the Sentencing (Pre-consolidation Amendments) Bill, introduced in the House of Lords on 21 January 2020, relating to the transfer of community orders and suspended sentence orders imposed by courts in England and Wales to Scotland, so far as these matters fall within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament, should be considered by the UK Parliament.

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

[S5M-21282](#) Graeme Dey on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: Business Motion—That the Parliament agrees the following revisions to the programme of business on:

(a) Wednesday 18 March 2020—

delete

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Justice and the Law Officers; Constitution, Europe and External Affairs

followed by Scottish Labour Party Debate: Women in Scotland

after

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

insert

2.00 pm Ministerial Statement: Education – COVID-19

followed by Ministerial Statement: Economy – COVID-19

followed by Portfolio Questions: Justice and the Law Officers; Constitution, Europe and External Affairs

followed by SPCB Motion: Reimbursement of Members Expenses Scheme

delete

followed by Members' Business

(b) Thursday 19 March 2020—

delete

2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.30 pm Portfolio Questions: Economy, Fair Work and Culture

insert

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Ministerial Statement: COVID-19: Supporting our Communities

followed by Ministerial Statement: UK Coronavirus Legislation

followed by Portfolio Questions: Economy, Fair Work and Culture

delete

followed by Members' Business

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

[S5M-21283](#) Graeme Dey on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: Suspension and Variation of Standing Orders—That the Parliament agrees that Rules 5.6(a), (b) and (c) of the Standing Orders be suspended for the duration of the public response to the Novel coronavirus COVID-19.

[S5M-21284](#) Graeme Dey on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: Suspension and Variation of Standing Orders—That the Parliament agrees that, for the purposes of electing an additional deputy Presiding Officer for the duration of the public response to the Novel coronavirus COVID-19, Rules 11.9.4, 11.9.5, 11.9.13 and 11.9.16 of the Standing Orders be suspended.

[S5M-21285](#) Graeme Dey on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: Suspension and Variation of Standing Orders—That the Parliament agrees that, for the purposes of committee meetings for the duration of the public response to the Novel coronavirus COVID-19—

(a) in Rule 6.3A.1 after “member” the words “or members” be inserted

(b) Rule 6.3A.2 be suspended

(c) in Rule 6.3A.4 the first sentence be suspended

(d) after Rule 6.3A.5(d) be inserted “(e) a political party withdraws in writing to the Bureau that nomination of the member or members nominated for the purposes of the duration of the public response to the Novel coronavirus COVID-19.”

(e) in Rule 12.1.15 the words “(other than a committee substitute)” be omitted in both instances where they occur.

S5M-21286 Graeme Dey on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: Suspension and Variation of Standing Orders—That the Parliament agrees that Rule 15.2.1 of the Standing Orders be suspended for the duration of the public response to the Novel coronavirus COVID-19.

5:45 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Debate on the subject of—

S5M-21178 Elaine Smith: 15th Anniversary of the Breastfeeding etc. (Scotland) Act 2005—That the Parliament acknowledges that 2020 marks the 15th anniversary of the Breastfeeding etc. (Scotland) Act 2005, which received royal assent on 18 January 2005; understands that the act made it an offence to prevent or stop a person in charge of a child who is otherwise permitted to be in a public place or licensed premises from feeding milk to that child in that place or on those premises, and to make provision in relation to the promotion of breastfeeding; notes the subsequent work that has been carried out to support women in breastfeeding their babies both at initiation and in sustaining maternal feeding; welcomes the progress made in increasing breastfeeding rates, as reported in February 2018 in the first Scottish Maternal and Infant Nutrition Survey, which found that 43% of mothers were continuing to breastfeed up to six months after birth, compared with 32% in 2010; is, however, concerned that 27% of women responding had sometimes decided not to breastfeed their baby in a certain place because they thought that they would be made to feel uncomfortable; believes that there is more work to be done to change societal attitudes to understand that a child has a right to be breastfed, wherever and whenever they are hungry or thirsty, to ensure that women can feel completely comfortable with this normal, nurturing, maternal behaviour in public spaces; celebrates and supports breastfeeding as being good for mums, babies and society, and encourages any woman who feels they have experienced an infringement of their lawful protection to seek legal redress in line with the provisions of the act. **R**

Committee Meetings

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

Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee 8th Meeting, 2020

The Committee will meet at 9:30 am in the Robert Burns Room (CR1)

1. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee will take evidence on the Right to Buy Land to Further Sustainable Development (Eligible Land, Specified Types of Area and Restrictions on Transfers, Assignations and Dealing) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 [draft] from—
Mairi Gougeon, Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment;
Fiona Harrison, Deputy Director, Sustainable Land Use and Rural Policy, Julia Burgham Pearson, Lawyer, and Chris Bierley, Land Reform Policy Officer, Scottish Government.
2. **Subordinate legislation:** Mairi Gougeon, Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment to move—S5M-20927—That the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee recommends that the Right to Buy Land to Further Sustainable Development (Eligible Land, Specified Types of Area and Restrictions on Transfers, Assignations and Dealing) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 [draft] be approved.
3. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee will consider the following negative instruments—
Right to Buy Land to Further Sustainable Development (Applications, Written Requests, Ballots and Compensation) (Scotland) Regulations 2020.
4. **Work programme (in private):** The Committee will consider its work programme.

Health and Sport Committee 7th Meeting, 2020

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

1. **The Forensic Medical Services (Victims of Sexual Offences) (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee will take evidence on the Bill at Stage 1 from—
Dr Catherine Calderwood, Chief Medical Officer, Greig Walker, Bill Team Leader, Tansy Main, Unit Head, CMO Rape and Sexual Assault Taskforce, Dr Edward Doyle, Senior Medical Adviser Paediatrics, and Katy Richards, Solicitor, Legal Directorate, Scottish Government;
and then from—
Sandy Brindley, Chief Executive, Rape Crisis Scotland;
Kirsti Hay, Coordinator, Glasgow Violence Against Women Partnership;
Anne Robertson Brown, Vice Chair, Angus Violence Against Women Partnership;
Gwen Harrison, Manager, Rape and Sexual Abuse Service Highland;
Kate Wallace, Chief Executive, Victim Support Scotland;
Jen Stewart, Centre Manager, Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre Perth and Kinross.
2. **Public petitions:** The Committee will consider the following petition—
PE01710 by Edward Archer, on community hospital and council care home services in Scotland.
3. **The Forensic Medical Services (Victims of Sexual Offences) (Scotland) Bill (in private):** The Committee will consider the evidence heard earlier in the meeting.

4. **Social Care Inquiry (in private):** The Committee will further consider its approach to the inquiry.

Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee 9th Meeting, 2020

The Committee will meet at 9:45 am in the David Livingstone Room (CR6)

1. **Declaration of interests:** Maurice Golden will be invited to declare any relevant interests.
2. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take items 4 and 5 in private.
3. **Energy Inquiry:** The Committee will take evidence from—
Fraser Crichton, Corporate Fleet Operations Manager, Dundee City Council;
Lesley Deans, Principal Transport Planner, Clackmannanshire Council.
4. **Energy Inquiry:** The Committee will consider the evidence heard at today's meeting.
5. **Work programme:** The Committee will consider its work programme.

Justice Committee 11th Meeting, 2020

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

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take item 8 in private.
2. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee will take evidence on the Civil Litigation (Expenses and Group Proceedings) (Scotland) Act 2018 (Success Fee Agreements) Regulations 2020 [draft] from—
Ash Denham, Minister for Community Safety, Hamish Goodall, Civil Law and Legal System Division, and Heather McClure, Scottish Government Legal Directorate, Scottish Government.
3. **Subordinate legislation:** Ash Denham (Minister for Community Safety) to move—
S5M-21029 That the Justice Committee recommends that the Civil Litigation (Expenses and Group Proceedings) (Scotland) Act 2018 (Success Fee Agreements) Regulations 2020 [draft] be approved.
4. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee will consider the following negative instrument—
Police Pensions (Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 (SSI 2020/33)
5. **Justice Sub-Committee on Policing:** The Committee will consider a report back from the Sub-Committee meeting held on 12 March 2020.
6. **Defamation and Malicious Publication (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee will take evidence on the Bill at Stage 1 from—
Jill Clark, Head of Private Law Unit, and Jo-Anne Tinto, Solicitor, Scottish Government Legal Directorate, Scottish Government.
7. **Defamation and Malicious Publications (Scotland) Bill (in private):** The Committee will review the evidence heard earlier in the meeting.
8. **Elder abuse:** The Committee will consider feedback from the presentation given by Dr Hannah Bows on 12 March 2020.

Contacts for Further Information

All telephone numbers 0131 348 XXXX

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