

Thursday 21 September 2023

Business Bulletin

Iris Ghnothaichean



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Today's Business

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 — S6M-10364
Jackie Dunbar: World Rivers Day 2023
2:30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions
2:30 pm Portfolio Questions
Education and Skills
followed by Criminal Justice Committee
Debate: Tackling Online Child Abuse,
Grooming and Exploitation
followed by Urgent Question: Sarah Boyack:
To ask the Scottish Government what impact
the Prime Minister's announcement on
delaying a range of net zero targets will have
on Scotland's target to become net zero by
2045.
followed by Business Motions
followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions
5:15 pm Decision Time

Committee Meetings

9:00am Constitution, Europe, External Affairs
and Culture Committee
9:00am Public Audit Committee
9:00am Social Justice and Social Security
Committee
9:30am Standards, Procedures and Public
Appointments Committee

Meeting of the Parliament

11:40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11:40 am General Questions

- 1. Colin Beattie:** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on what steps it is taking to support innovation and entrepreneurship. ([S6O-02544](#))
- 2. Willie Rennie:** To ask the Scottish Government what the increase in patient charges for NHS dental treatment will be. ([S6O-02545](#))
- 3. Rona Mackay:** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on the winter flu and COVID-19 vaccination programme. ([S6O-02546](#))
- 4. Bill Kidd:** To ask the Scottish Government whether Scottish Water has completed any remedial works to prevent future flooding in the Glasgow Anniesland constituency, following reports of widespread flooding in the area earlier this year. ([S6O-02547](#))
- 5. Katy Clark:** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on the procurement process for the upgrade of Ardrossan harbour. ([S6O-02548](#))
- 6. Pam Gosal:** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on what steps it is taking to eliminate long waiting times for NHS procedures. ([S6O-02549](#))
- 7. Jeremy Balfour:** To ask the Scottish Government when it plans to start accepting applications for the £10 million fund for Changing Places toilets that was announced in the 2021-22 Programme for Government. ([S6O-02550](#))
- 8. Jamie Greene:** To ask the Scottish Government what consideration it has given to any benefits to islanders of restoring the monthly season ticket on the Largs to Cumbrae ferry route. ([S6O-02551](#))

12:00 pm First Minister's Questions

- 1. Douglas Ross:** Question to be taken in Chamber. ([S6F-02372](#))
- 2. Anas Sarwar:** Question to be taken in Chamber. ([S6F-02373](#))
- 3. Alex Cole-Hamilton:** To ask the First Minister when the Cabinet will next meet. ([S6F-02380](#))
- 4. Collette Stevenson:** To ask the First Minister what assessment the Scottish Government has made of the potential impact of the roll-out of the Carer Support Payment on the national mission to tackle poverty and reduce inequality. ([S6F-02396](#))
- 5. Brian Whittle:** To ask the First Minister what the Scottish Government's response is to reported comments from COSLA and council leaders questioning the achievability of net zero targets without a detailed plan and adequate funding. ([S6F-02384](#))
- 6. Paul O'Kane:** To ask the First Minister whether the Scottish Government will consider writing off school meal debts, in light of reports of local authorities instructing sheriff officers to pursue families for unpaid school meal debts. ([S6F-02377](#))

12:45 pm Members' Business

Debate on the subject of—

[S6M-10364 Jackie Dunbar: World Rivers Day 2023](#)—That the Parliament marks World Rivers Day 2023, which takes place on 24 September and is a celebration of the world's waterways; commends the organisations, communities and land managers implementing landscape scale initiatives that improve stewardship of rivers; appreciates what it sees as the value of catchment scale initiatives and networks in connecting projects and communities together to maximise the benefits; considers that nature-based solutions, when successfully implemented, can lead to healthy, dynamic, resilient river systems, delivering multiple benefits to interconnected species such as sea trout, Atlantic salmon and freshwater pearl mussels, among others; recognises what it considers the seriousness with which the Scottish Government is treating Scotland's declining salmon stocks; further recognises the Wild Salmon Strategy and its objectives and priority themes; understands the interconnectivity within the ecosystem, where pressures such as water temperature, extreme flow events, nutrient enrichment and pollution can be substantial and cumulative; acknowledges Scottish Water's improving urban waters route map, which is backed by £500 million of investment; understands that SEPA's recent results show that 66% of Scotland's water bodies are in good condition or better, compared with just 16% elsewhere in the UK, and considers that implementing nature-based solutions can mitigate such pressures, delivering multiple benefits by boosting biodiversity, reducing diffuse pollution and reducing river temperatures in the Aberdeen Donside constituency in Scotland, and in the rest of the UK.

2:30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2:30 pm Portfolio Questions

Education and Skills

- 1. Annie Wells:** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on the summit on tackling violence in schools. ([S6O-02536](#))
- 2. Paul O'Kane:** To ask the Scottish Government when it will publish updated details of its Learning Estate Investment Programme. ([S6O-02537](#))
- 3. Stuart McMillan:** To ask the Scottish Government how it supports children within the education system that have learning disabilities, autism or neurodiversity. ([S6O-02538](#))
- 4. Kaukab Stewart:** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on any assessment and marking backlogs at universities. ([S6O-02539](#))
- 5. Kate Forbes:** To ask the Scottish Government how it is working with Highland Council to improve the school estate in the Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch constituency. ([S6O-02540](#))
- 6. Willie Coffey:** To ask the Scottish Government what opportunities the development of a Scottish Education Exchange Programme would present for young people in Kilmarnock and Irvine Valley. ([S6O-02541](#))
- 7. Clare Adamson:** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to improve digital education, in light of the increased prominence of artificial intelligence and cyber technology. ([S6O-02542](#))
- 8. Roz McCall:** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on the implementation of the national allowance for foster and kinship care. ([S6O-02543](#))

followed by Criminal Justice Committee Debate: Tackling Online Child Abuse, Grooming and Exploitation

followed by Urgent Question: Sarah Boyack: To ask the Scottish Government what impact the Prime Minister's announcement on delaying a range of net zero targets will have on Scotland's target to become net zero by 2045.

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5:15 pm Decision Time

Committee Meetings

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

Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee 25th Meeting, 2023

The Committee will meet at 9:00 am in TG.40-CR1 The Burns Room

- Pre-Budget Scrutiny 2024-25:** The Committee will take evidence from—
Duncan Dornan, Executive Committee Member, VOCAL Scotland;
Pamela Tulloch, Chief Executive, Scottish Library and Information Council;
India Divers, Policy and Campaigns Officer, Museums Association;
David Avery, Negotiations Officer, Prospect;
Kara Christine, Senior Programme Producer, Artlink;
Liam Sinclair, Co-Chair, Federation of Scottish Theatre.
- Work programme (in private):** The Committee will consider its work programme.

Public Audit Committee 23rd Meeting, 2023

The Committee will meet at 9:00 am in T1.60-CR4 The Clerk Maxwell Room

- Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take agenda items 4 and 5 in private.
- New vessels for the Clyde and Hebrides: Arrangements to deliver vessels 801 and 802:**
The Committee will take evidence from—
Fiona Hyslop, Minister for Transport, and Colin Cook, Director of Economic Development, Scottish Government;
Alison Irvine, Interim Chief Executive, and Chris Wilcock, Head of Ferries Branch, Transport Scotland.
- The 2021/ 22 audit of Scottish Canals:** The Committee will take evidence from—
John Paterson, Chief Executive, Maureen Campbell, Chair, Sarah Jane Hannah, Director of Finance and Business Services, and Richard Millar, Chief Operating Officer, Scottish Canals;
Alison Irvine, Interim Chief Executive, Gary Cox, Interim Director Aviation, Maritime, Freight and Canals, and Kerry Twyman, Director of Finance and Corporate Services, Transport Scotland.
- The 2021/22 audit of Scottish Canals:** The Committee will consider the evidence heard at agenda item 3 and take further evidence from—
Stephen Boyle, Auditor General for Scotland;
Mark Taylor, Audit Director, Audit Scotland;
Joanne Brown, Partner, Grant Thornton UK LLP.
- New vessels for the Clyde and Hebrides: Arrangements to deliver vessels 801 and 802:**
The Committee will consider the evidence heard at agenda item 2 and take further evidence from—
Stephen Boyle, Auditor General for Scotland;
Mark Taylor, Audit Director, Audit Scotland.

Social Justice and Social Security Committee 21st Meeting, 2023

The Committee will meet at 9:00 am in T4.40-CR2 The Fairfax Somerville Room

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take items 4, 5 and 6 in private.
2. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee will take evidence on the Carer's Assistance (Carer Support Payment) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 from—
Maggie Chiwanza, CEO, MECOPP;
Fiona Collie, Head of Policy and Public Affairs, Scotland & Northern Ireland, Carers Scotland;
Judith Paterson, Interim Co-Chair, Scottish Commission on Social Security;
Paul Traynor, Head of Scottish Young Carers Services Alliance, Carers Trust Scotland.
3. **Pre-Budget Scrutiny 2024-25:** The Committee will take evidence as part of its Pre-Budget Scrutiny 2024-25 from—
Chris Birt, Deputy Director for Scotland, Joseph Rowntree Foundation;
Emma Congreve, Deputy Director, Senior Knowledge Exchange Fellow, Fraser of Allander Institute;
Dr Alison Hosie, Researcher, Scottish Human Rights Commission;
Bill Scott, Chair, Poverty and Inequality Commission.
4. **Consideration of evidence:** The Committee will consider the evidence heard earlier in the meeting.
5. **Poverty and Inequality Commission Appointment Process:** The Committee will consider its approach to the appointment process.
6. **Work programme:** The Committee will consider its work programme.

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee 15th Meeting, 2023

The Committee will meet at 9:30 am in T4.60-CR6 The Livingstone Room

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take item 4 in private.
2. **Cross-Party Group:** The Committee will consider an application for recognition from the proposed Cross-Party Group on Fisheries and Coastal Communities, and take evidence from—
Karen Adam, MSP, The Scottish Parliament.
3. **Cross-Party Group - approval:** The Committee will decide whether to accord recognition to the proposed Cross-Party Group on Fisheries and Coastal Communities.
4. **Work programme:** The Committee will consider its work programme.
5. **Public petitions: PE01949** The Committee will consider its approach to the following petition— Review the rules concerning Dual Mandate MSPs
6. **Code of Conduct Rule Changes (in private):** The Committee will consider Code of Conduct Rule changes

Contacts for Further Information

All telephone numbers 0131 348 XXXX

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

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Chamber Desk (Motions and Questions)	5199
Parliamentary Business Team (Chamber, Parliamentary Bureau)	5187
Legislation Team	5277
Non-Government Bills Unit (NGBU)	6124

Committee web sites at:

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/committees>

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MSP Details

<https://www.parliament.scot/msps/current-and-previous-msps>

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