

Tuesday 20 February 2024

# Business Bulletin

*Iris Ghnothaichean*

Revised at 1:25pm



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Today's Business

Subject to the Parliament's agreement of S6M-12229, today's business will be as follows:

### Meeting of the Parliament

**2:00 pm** Time for Reflection: Professor Michael Brown, Chair in Irish, Scottish and Enlightenment History, University of Aberdeen

**followed by** Parliamentary Bureau Motions

**followed by** Oaths and Affirmations

**followed by** Topical Questions

**followed by** Appointment of Scottish Minister and Junior Scottish Ministers

**followed by** Scottish Government Debate: Building a New Scotland - Social Security in an Independent Scotland

**followed by** Committee Announcements

**followed by** Business Motions

**followed by** Parliamentary Bureau Motions

**5:00 pm** Decision Time

**followed by** Members' Business — S6M-11927 Gordon MacDonald: Gas and Electricity Standing Charges

### Committee Meetings

**9:00am** Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

**9:00am** Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee

**9:30am** Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee

**10:00am** Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee

**10:30am** Finance and Public Administration Committee

**11:30am** Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee

## Meeting of the Parliament

Subject to the Parliament's agreement of S6M-12229, today's business will be as follows:

**2:00 pm Time for Reflection: Professor Michael Brown, Chair in Irish, Scottish and Enlightenment History, University of Aberdeen**

**followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions**

**[S6M-12229](#) George Adam on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: Revision to Business Programme**—That the Parliament agrees to the following revisions to the programme of business for—

(a) Tuesday 20 February 2024—

after

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

insert

*followed by* Oaths and Affirmations

delete

*followed by* Ministerial Statement: Working Towards a Tobacco Free Scotland by 2034 and Tackling Youth Vaping

and insert

*followed by* Appointment of Scottish Minister and Junior Scottish Ministers

(b) Thursday 22 February 2024—

after

*followed by* Financial Resolution: Regulation of Legal Services (Scotland) Bill

insert

*followed by* Legislative Consent Motion: Trade (Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership) Bill - UK Legislation

*followed by* Legislative Consent Motion: Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Bill - UK Legislation

## **followed by Oaths and Affirmations**

## **followed by Topical Questions**

- 1. Carol Mochan:** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on the reported decision to delay the progress of all new NHS capital projects for up to two years, including the Ayr National Treatment Centre. ([S6T-01801](#))
- 2. Liam Kerr:** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on whether the A96 will be dualled from Inverness to Aberdeen. ([S6T-01797](#))

## **followed by Appointment of Scottish Minister and Junior Scottish Ministers**

[S6M-12210](#) **Humza Yousaf: Appointment of Scottish Minister**—That the Parliament agrees that Fiona Hyslop be appointed as a Scottish Minister.

[S6M-12211](#) **Humza Yousaf: Appointment of Junior Scottish Ministers**—That the Parliament agrees that Jim Fairlie and Kaukab Stewart be appointed as junior Scottish Ministers.

## **followed by Scottish Government Debate: Building a New Scotland - Social Security in an Independent Scotland**

[S6M-12203](#) **Shirley-Anne Somerville: Building a New Scotland - Social Security in an Independent Scotland**—That the Parliament welcomes the Scottish Government's paper, *Building a New Scotland: Social security in an independent Scotland*; agrees that the people of Scotland would be best served by a social security system that embeds dignity, fairness and respect and provides a safety net for all as part of a strong wellbeing economy; notes progress made with Scotland's unique social security benefits, including five family payments, with modelling estimating that 90,000 fewer children will live in relative and absolute poverty in 2023-24 as a result of Scottish Government policies, with poverty levels 9% lower than they would have otherwise been, but recognises that only independence provides the full range of powers that would enable Scotland to provide the social security that the people of Scotland deserve.

The Presiding Officer has selected the following amendments

[S6M-12203.1](#) **Jeremy Balfour: Building a New Scotland - Social Security in an Independent Scotland**—As an amendment to motion S6M-12203 in the name of Shirley-Anne Somerville (Building a New Scotland - Social Security in an Independent Scotland), leave out from "welcomes" to end and insert "regrets that the Scottish Government continues to miss its targets for delivering the transfer of benefits to Social Security Scotland, and calls on the Scottish Government to focus on the real priorities of the people of Scotland rather than obsessing over the constitution."

**[S6M-12203.2](#) Paul O'Kane: Building a New Scotland - Social Security in an Independent Scotland**—As an amendment to motion S6M-12203 in the name of Shirley-Anne Somerville (Building a New Scotland - Social Security in an Independent Scotland), leave out from "welcomes" to end and insert "acknowledges that the people of Scotland would be best served by a social security system that embeds dignity, fairness and respect and provides a safety net for all in a strong and growing economy; notes Scotland's devolved social security benefits; acknowledges that delays in processing adult and child disability assessments have left disabled people stuck in limbo and out of pocket during the worst cost of living crisis in decades; notes that the Scottish Government's decision to cut affordable housing budgets by 27% in the face of a housing emergency has been labelled as baffling by organisations like the Joseph Rowntree Foundation; acknowledges that cutting vital funding for affordable housing and employability schemes harms the eradication of the causes of poverty; notes that between 2017 and 2021, 12% of people have remained in persistent poverty after housing costs, and recognises that the paper, *Building a New Scotland: Social security in an independent Scotland*, is the latest in a series of theoretical future plans by the Scottish Government, which has already been too distracted to focus on the here and now and make the devolution of social security work for the people of Scotland."

followed by **Committee Announcements**

followed by **Business Motions**

followed by **Parliamentary Bureau Motions**

**[S6M-12230](#) George Adam on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: Substitution on Committees**—That the Parliament agrees that Emma Harper be removed as the Scottish National Party substitute on the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee.

**[S6M-12231](#) George Adam on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: Committee Membership**—That the Parliament agrees that—

Elena Whitham be appointed to replace Jim Fairlie as a member of the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee; and

Emma Harper be appointed to replace Karen Adam as a member of the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee.

**5:00 pm Decision Time**

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

**[S6M-11927](#) Gordon MacDonald: Gas and Electricity Standing Charges**—That the Parliament understands that standing charges are the fixed component of customers' energy bills, and that Ofgem, the energy regulator for Great Britain, has set the maximum standing charge that a supplier can charge a customer at 29.6 pence per day for gas, 62.08 pence per day for electricity

in southern Scotland, and 59.38 pence per day for electricity in northern Scotland; further understands that Scottish consumers using both fuels, including those in the Edinburgh Pentlands constituency, could be paying up to £335 per year before they use any power to heat or light their home; believes that Scottish energy users could be paying 61% more in electricity standing charges than people in London, despite Scotland being what it sees as an energy-rich nation and reportedly generating far more electricity than is used domestically; further believes that Scottish customers are being penalised by a complex and unfair charging system, and notes the calls for the UK Government to scrap standing charges and institute a more equitable price structure.

## Committee Meetings

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

### Health, Social Care and Sport Committee 5th Meeting, 2024

The Committee will meet at 9:00 am in TG.60-CR3 The Fleming Room

1. **Decisions on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take items 5, 6 and 7 in private and whether its briefing session with Scottish Government officials on the Abortion Services (Safe Access Zones) (Scotland) Bill on 27 February be taken in private.
2. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee will consider the following negative instruments—  
[Official Controls \(Import of High Risk Food and Feed of Non-Animal Origin\) Amendment \(Scotland\) Regulations 2024](#)  
[National Assistance \(Assessment of Resources\) Amendment \(Scotland\) Regulations 2024](#)  
[National Assistance \(Sums for Personal Requirements\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2024](#)
3. **Post-legislative scrutiny of the Social Care (Self-directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013:** The Committee will take evidence from individuals who have participated in its informal engagement workstreams on the Bill, firstly from—  
 Becs Barker, and Michael Collier, Social care providers workstream;  
 Peter McDonnell, Social work staff workstream;  
 Ryan Murray, Social care staff workstream;  
 and then from—  
 Lucy McDonald, Individuals workstream;  
 Ann Marie Penman, Carers workstream;  
 Julia Smith, Individuals workstream;  
 Dr Pauline Nolan, Head of Leadership and Civic Participation, Inclusion Scotland.
4. **National Care Service (Scotland) Bill (in private):** The Committee will consider a revised draft Stage 1 report.
5. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee will consider a draft report on the Community Care (Personal Care and Nursing Care) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2024 [draft]
6. **Post-legislative scrutiny of the Social Care (Self-directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013:** The Committee will consider the evidence it heard earlier under agenda item 3.
7. **Abortion Services (Safe Access Zones) (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee will consider its approach to the scrutiny of the Bill at Stage 1.

### Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee 6th Meeting, 2024

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

1. **Circular Economy (Scotland) Bill (in private):** The Committee will consider a draft Stage 1 report.

### Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee 6th Meeting, 2024

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

1. **Declaration of interests:** Brian Whittle MSP will be invited to declare any relevant interests.

- Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take items 4 and 5 in private.
- Housing to 2040:** The Committee will take evidence from—  
John Blackwood, Chief Executive, Scottish Association of Landlords;  
Michael Cameron, Chief Executive, Scottish Housing Regulator;  
Maureen Chalmers, Community Wellbeing Spokesperson, COSLA;  
Callum Chomczuk, National Director, Chartered Institute of Housing Scotland;  
Colin Stewart, Chair, North of Scotland Regional Network of Tenants and Residents;  
Sally Thomas, Chief Executive, Scottish Federation of Housing Associations (SFHA);  
John Mills, Co-Chair, Association of Local Authority Chief Housing Officers (ALACHO);  
Jane Wood, Chief Executive, Homes for Scotland.
- Housing to 2040:** The Committee will consider the evidence heard earlier in the meeting.
- Local Authority (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2024:** The Committee will consider its approach to scrutiny of the Regulations.
- Housing (Cladding Remediation) (Scotland) Bill (in private):** The Committee will consider a draft Stage 1 report.

### Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee 5th Meeting, 2024

The Committee will meet at 10:00 am in T1.60-CR4 The Clerk Maxwell Room

- Choice of Convener:** The Committee will choose a new Convener.
- Gender Representation on Public Boards (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee will take evidence on the Bill at Stage 1 from—  
Shirley-Anne Somerville, Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Eileen Flanagan, Head of the Women's Equality Unit, Lucy Galloway, Solicitor, Legal Directorate, and Annie Milovic, Senior Policy Advisor, Gender Equality Policy Team, Scottish Government.
- Gender Representation on Public Boards (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill (in private):** The Committee will consider the evidence it heard under agenda item 1.
- HIV anti-stigma campaign/Achieving Zero New Transmission of HIV in Scotland by 2030 (in private):** The Committee will consider its approach.

### Finance and Public Administration Committee 8th Meeting, 2024

The Committee will meet at 10:30 am in TG.40-CR1 The Burns Room

- Budget Scrutiny 2024-25:** The Committee will take evidence on the Scottish Government's response to its Budget Scrutiny 2024-25 report from—  
Shona Robison, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Dr Alison Cumming, Director of Budget and Public Spending, Ian Storrie, Head of Local Government Finance, and Lorraine King, Deputy Director, Tax and Revenues Directorate, Scottish Government.
- Budget (Scotland) (No. 3) Bill:** The Committee will consider the Bill at Stage 2.
- Work programme (in private):** The Committee will consider its work programme.

### Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee 6th Meeting, 2024

The Committee will meet at 11:30 am in T1.40-CR5 The Smith Room



1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take items 5 and 6 in private.
2. **Instruments subject to affirmative procedure:** The Committee will consider the following—  
[Scottish Food Commission \(Appointment\) Regulations 2024](#) (SSI 2024/Draft)  
[Budget \(Scotland\) Act 2023 Amendment Regulations 2024](#) (SSI 2024/Draft)  
[Local Government Finance \(Scotland\) Order 2024](#) (SSI 2024/Draft)
3. **Instruments subject to negative procedure:** The Committee will consider the following—  
[Firefighters' Pension Schemes \(Scotland\) Amendment Order 2024](#) (SSI 2024/26)  
[Sexual Offences Act 2003 \(Prescribed Police Stations\) \(Scotland\) Amendment Regulations 2024](#) (SSI 2024/30)  
[Dangerous Dogs \(Designated Types\) \(Scotland\) Order 2024](#) (SSI 2024/31)  
[Council Tax Reduction \(Scotland\) Amendment Regulations 2024](#) (SSI 2024/35)  
[Sandeel \(Prohibition of Fishing\) \(Scotland\) Order 2024](#) (SSI 2204/36)
4. **Instruments not subject to any parliamentary procedure:** The Committee will consider the following—  
[Good Food Nation \(Scotland\) Act 2022 \(Commencement No. 2\) Regulations 2024](#) (SSI 2024/29 (C.4))
5. **Investigatory Powers (Amendment) Bill (UK Parliament legislation):** The Committee will consider the powers to make subordinate legislation within devolved competence conferred on UK Ministers in the Bill.
6. **Work programme:** The Committee will consider its work programme.



## Contacts for Further Information

All telephone numbers 0131 348 XXXX

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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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