

Tuesday 16 January 2024

Business Bulletin

Iris Ghnothaichean



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Today's Business

Subject to the Parliament's agreement of S6M-11883, today's business will be as follows:

Meeting of the Parliament

2:00 pm Time for Reflection: Rev Linda Haggerstone, National Interfaith Officer, Scottish Pagan Federation

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions

followed by Ministerial Statement: Horizon IT Prosecutions

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Visitor Levy (Scotland) Bill

followed by Financial Resolution: Visitor Levy (Scotland) Bill

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5:10 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business — S6M-11589 Kevin Stewart: Languages at the University of Aberdeen

Committee Meetings

9:00am Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee

9:15am Finance and Public Administration Committee

9:15am Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

9:15am Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee

9:45am Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee

10:00am Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee

Meeting of the Parliament

Subject to the Parliament's agreement of S6M-11883, today's business will be as follows:

2:00 pm Time for Reflection: Rev Linda Haggerstone, National Interfaith Officer, Scottish Pagan Federation

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

[S6M-11883](#) 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 16 January 2024—

after

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

insert

followed by Ministerial Statement: Horizon IT Prosecutions

delete

5.00 pm Decision Time

and insert

5.10 pm Decision Time

(b) Thursday 18 January 2024—

after

2.30 pm Portfolio Questions: Transport, Net Zero and Just Transition

insert

followed by Ministerial Statement: New Safeguards in Relation to XL Bully Dogs

followed by Topical Questions

1. Stephen Kerr: To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an assessment of the state of readiness of Scotland's frontline services in response to the yellow warnings in place for freezing temperatures over the next 10 days. ([S6T-01736](#))

2. Mark Griffin: To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to bring more homes back into use, in light of reports that the stock of empty homes is valued at an estimated £3.4 billion. ([S6T-01731](#)) R

followed by Ministerial Statement: Horizon IT Prosecutions

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Visitor Levy (Scotland) Bill

[S6M-11871](#) Tom Arthur: Visitor Levy (Scotland) Bill—That the Parliament agrees to the general principles of the Visitor Levy (Scotland) Bill.

followed by Financial Resolution: Visitor Levy (Scotland) Bill

[S6M-11730](#) Shona Robison: Visitor Levy (Scotland) Bill: Financial Resolution—That the Parliament, for the purposes of any Act of the Scottish Parliament resulting from the Visitor Levy (Scotland) Bill, agrees to any tax imposed in consequence of the Act in relation to which Rule 9.12.3B(a) of the Parliament's Standing Orders applies.

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5:10 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Debate on the subject of—

[S6M-11589](#) Kevin Stewart: Languages at the University of Aberdeen—That the Parliament notes the concern expressed at proposals by the University of Aberdeen to reduce its language provision; understands the challenges that the languages department faces, including running a projected deficit of £1.6 million in 2023-24, and that the student intake has reportedly fallen dramatically following the UK's exit from the EU; believes that languages offer significant value to individuals, to communities across Scotland, and to building relationships across the globe; recognises what it sees as the widespread support for retaining language teaching at the University of Aberdeen, including, it understands, from students, staff, alumni, Gaelic organisations and the consulates of several nations, and notes the calls for the University of Aberdeen to explore every possible option to retain language learning, including an expanded language offering for all interested students and degree courses.

Committee Meetings

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

Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee 2nd Meeting, 2024

The Committee will meet at 9:00 am in T4.60-CR6 The Livingstone Room

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take items 3 and 4 in private.
2. **Budget Scrutiny 2024-25:** The Committee will take evidence on the Scottish Government's Budget 2024-25 from—
Cllr Katie Hagmann, Resources Spokesperson, COSLA;
David Robertson, Finance Lead, SOLACE and Chief Executive, Scottish Borders Council;
Mirren Kelly, Chief Officer, Local Government Finance, COSLA;
and then from—
Joe FitzPatrick, Minister for Local Government Empowerment and Planning, and Ian Storrie, Head of Local Government Finance, Scottish Government.
3. **Budget Scrutiny 2024-25:** The Committee will consider the evidence heard earlier in the meeting.
4. **Work programme:** The Committee will consider its work programme.

Finance and Public Administration Committee 2nd Meeting, 2024

The Committee will meet at 9:15 am in TG.40-CR1 The Burns Room

1. **Budget Scrutiny 2024-25:** The Committee will take evidence from—
Jackson Carlaw, Member, Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body;
David McGill, Clerk/Chief Executive, and Sara Glass, Group Head of Financial Governance, Scottish Parliament;
and then from—
Shona Robison, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Alison Cumming, Director of Budget and Public Spending, Dr Andrew Scott, Director of Tax and Revenues, and Ellen Leaver, Deputy Director, Local Government and Analytical Services, Scottish Government.
2. **Work programme (in private):** The Committee will consider its work programme.

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee 1st Meeting, 2024

The Committee will meet at 9:15 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, 7 and 8 in private, and whether to consider, in private at future meetings, a draft report on the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill.
2. **Budget Scrutiny 2024-25:** The Committee will take evidence on the Scottish Government's Budget 2024-25 from—
Michael Matheson, Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care, and Richard McCallum, Director of Health and Social Care Finance, Digital and Governance, Scottish Government.

3. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee will take evidence on the Anaesthesia Associates and Physician Associates Order 2024 [draft] from—
Michael Matheson, Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care, Rachel Coutts, Scottish Government Legal Directorate, Food, Health and Social Care, Nigel Robinson, Unit Head, Professional Healthcare Regulation, Chief Nursing Officer's Directorate, and Scott Wood, Unit Head, Sponsorship and Infrastructure, Health Workforce Directorate, Scottish Government.
4. **Subordinate legislation:** Michael Matheson (Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care) to move—
S6M-11668—That the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee recommends that the Anaesthesia Associates and Physician Associates Order 2024 [draft] be approved.
5. **Budget Scrutiny 2024-25:** The Committee will consider the evidence it heard earlier under agenda item 2.
6. **National Care Service (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee will receive a background briefing on the Bill from Scottish Government Bill team officials.
7. **Public health impact of vaping:** The Committee will consider a draft letter to the Minister for Public Health and Women's Health.
8. **Abortion Services (Safe Access Zones) (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee will further consider its approach to the scrutiny of the Bill at Stage 1.

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee 2nd Meeting, 2024

The Committee will meet at 9:15 am in T4.40-CR2 The Fairfax Somerville Room

1. **Declaration of interests:** Sarah Boyack will be invited to declare any relevant interests.
2. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take item 7 in private.
3. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee will take evidence on the [Bus Services Improvement Partnerships \(Objections\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2024](#) [draft] from—
Fiona Hyslop, Minister for Transport, and Liana Waclawski, Lawyer, Scottish Government;
Orsolya Keri, Bus Regulatory Policy Manager, and Bettina Sizeland, Director of Bus, Accessibility and Active Travel, Transport Scotland.
4. **Subordinate legislation:** Fiona Hyslop (Minister for Transport) to move—[S6M-11609](#)—That the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee recommends that the Bus Services Improvement Partnerships (Objections) (Scotland) Regulations 2024 [draft] be approved.
5. **Environmental governance in Scotland:** The Committee will take evidence from—
Lloyd Austin, Convener, Governance Group, Scottish Environment LINK;
Dr Shivali Fifield, Chief Officer, Environmental Rights Centre for Scotland;
Professor Sarah Hendry, Dundee Law School, University of Dundee;
Bridget Marshall, Chief Officer, Scottish Environment Protection Agency;
Professor Simon Parsons, Director of Environment, Planning and Assurance, Scottish Water;
Jamie Whittle, Convener, Environmental Law Sub-committee, Law Society of Scotland.
6. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee will consider the following negative instrument—
[Bus Services Improvement Partnerships and Local Services Franchises \(Provision of Information\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2023](#) (2023/368)
7. **Environmental governance in Scotland:** The Committee will consider the evidence it heard earlier under agenda item 5.

Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee 1st Meeting, 2024

The Committee will meet at 9:45 am in T1.60-CR4 The Clerk Maxwell Room

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take item 3 in private.
2. **Scottish Human Rights Commission:** The Committee will take evidence from—
Jim Farish, Commissioner, Shelley Gray, Commissioner, Claire Methven O'Brien, Commissioner, and Jan Savage, Executive Director, Scottish Human Rights Commission.
3. **Scottish Human Rights Commission:** The Committee will consider the evidence it heard under agenda item 2.

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee 2nd Meeting, 2024

The Committee will meet at 10:00 am in T1.40-CR5 The Smith Room

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take item 3 in private.
2. **Instruments not subject to any parliamentary procedure:** The Committee will consider the following—
[Importation of Animals and Related Products \(Miscellaneous Amendment and Revocation\) \(Scotland\) Order 2023](#) (SSI 2023/391)
3. **Budget (Scotland) (No. 3) Bill:** The Committee will consider the delegated powers provisions in this Bill at Stage 1.

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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