

Wednesday 4 February 2026

Business Bulletin

Iris Ghnothaichean

Revised at 1:05pm



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Bill withdrawn on 3 February 2026

Desecration of War Memorials (Scotland) Bill—The Bill, introduced on 14 May 2025, was withdrawn. (SP Bill 68) (Member's Bill)

Today's Business

Meeting of the Parliament

2:00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2:00 pm Portfolio Questions: Deputy First Minister Responsibilities, Economy and Gaelic; Finance and Local Government

followed by Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party Debate: Saving Scottish Hospitality

followed by Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party Debate: Opposing the Scottish Government's Proposed Council Tax Rises

followed by Motion on Reconsideration of a Bill: European Charter of Local Self-Government (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill

followed by Urgent Question: Liam Kerr: To ask the Scottish Government whether it will publish the consultation on its proposal to reduce the automatic early release point for certain short-term prisoners from 40% to 30% of their sentence, including details of how and when responses can be submitted.

followed by Urgent Question: Finlay Carson: To ask the Scottish Government what immediate action it will take in light of the concerns raised by the Patient Safety Commissioner at the meeting of the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee on 3 February regarding transparency and risk mitigation in relation to maternity services in Wigtownshire.

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

Committee Meetings

9:00am Education, Children and Young People Committee

9:00am Rural Affairs and Islands Committee

9:30am Economy and Fair Work Committee

9:30am Public Audit Committee

10:00am Criminal Justice Committee

6:00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business: Bill Kidd: The
Mental Health Impact of Cell Therapies

Meeting of the Parliament

2:00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2:00 pm Portfolio Questions: Deputy First Minister Responsibilities, Economy and Gaelic; Finance and Local Government

The Presiding Officer has grouped the following questions: Finance and Local Government – Questions 1 and 5.

Deputy First Minister Responsibilities, Economy and Gaelic

1. Davy Russell: To ask the Scottish Government how its employability programmes support parents of children aged nine months to three years to return to work, in light of the lack of funded childcare for this age group. ([S6O-05451](#))

2. Ruth Maguire: To ask the Scottish Government what support will be available for young entrepreneurs alongside the £2.5 million funding announced for the First Minister's Start Up Challenge. ([S6O-05452](#))

3. Collette Stevenson: [Not Lodged] ([S6O-05453](#))

4. Sharon Dowey: To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to the recent report by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales showing that business confidence in Scotland has fallen for the sixth consecutive quarter and is lower than the UK average. ([S6O-05454](#))

5. Paul McLennan: To ask the Scottish Government what implications the recent announcement of next steps for its £1.5 billion bonds programme will have for the financing of major capital projects across Scotland. ([S6O-05455](#))

6. Michelle Thomson: [Not Lodged] ([S6O-05456](#))

7. Rona Mackay: To ask the Scottish Government what the immediate economic outcomes were for Scotland's exporters of its recent trade mission to the United Arab Emirates. ([S6O-05457](#))

8. Daniel Johnson: To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to the *Cities Outlook 2026* report and the performance of Scottish cities. ([S6O-05458](#))

Finance and Local Government

1. Mark Griffin: To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to COSLA's statement that the draft Budget 2026-27 "represents a very poor settlement for local government which fails to address the financial situation being faced by councils across Scotland". ([S6O-05459](#))

2. Jackie Dunbar: To ask the Scottish Government how it envisages its draft Scottish Budget 2026-27 will support families in the Aberdeen Donside constituency to address cost of living pressures, including childcare costs. ([S6O-05460](#))

3. Clare Adamson: To ask the Scottish Government what engagement it has had with COSLA regarding payroll practices in local authorities that can result in two wage payments in a single universal credit assessment period, and can lead to reduced entitlement and rent arrears, including in relation to support available for those affected. ([S6O-05461](#))

4. Audrey Nicoll: [Not Lodged] ([S6O-05462](#))

5. Neil Bibby: To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with COSLA following the publication of its draft Budget 2026-27. ([S6O-05463](#))

6. Alexander Burnett: To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on the work that it is doing to recognise rurality in local government finance settlements. ([S6O-05464](#))

7. Jeremy Balfour: To ask the Scottish Government how much has been allocated in its draft Budget 2026-27 to replace the Investing Communities Fund when the current funding ends in March 2026. ([S6O-05465](#))

8. Jamie Hepburn: To ask the Scottish Government how much it has allocated in its draft Budget 2026-27 to support local authorities, including North Lanarkshire Council, to provide universal breakfast clubs from August 2027. ([S6O-05466](#))

followed by Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party Debate: Saving Scottish Hospitality

S6M-20653 Murdo Fraser: Saving Scottish Hospitality—That the Parliament recognises the pressures facing Scotland's hospitality sector; calls on the Scottish Government to postpone the forthcoming non-domestic rates revaluation until a comprehensive review of the valuation methodology has been completed, and further calls on the Scottish Government to provide 100% rates relief for all hospitality businesses with commercial property valued up to £100,000.

The Presiding Officer has selected the following amendments

S6M-20653.3 Ivan McKee: Saving Scottish Hospitality—As an amendment to motion S6M-20653 in the name of Murdo Fraser (Saving Scottish Hospitality), leave out from "the pressures" to end and insert "that the revaluation process is independent of the Scottish Government; notes the more than £320 million of business support announced in the draft Budget through transitional relief schemes and retail, hospitality and leisure relief over the next three years, and acknowledges the commitment from the Scottish Government to pass on, in full, any Barnett consequential funding from the UK Government's change to non-domestic rates for pubs and music venues in England to businesses in Scotland."

S6M-20653.2 Daniel Johnson: Saving Scottish Hospitality—As an amendment to motion S6M-20653 in the name of Murdo Fraser (Saving Scottish Hospitality), leave out from ", and further" to end and insert "; acknowledges long-standing criticism of a lack of transparency within the non-domestic rates system; recognises that hospitality businesses pay proportionately more in rates as compared to their share of the economy, and calls on the Scottish Government to overhaul the system."

S6M-20653.1 Willie Rennie: Saving Scottish Hospitality—As an amendment to motion S6M-20653 in the name of Murdo Fraser (Saving Scottish Hospitality), leave out from ", and further" to end and insert "; believes that business rates should support growth and employment and that sudden steep rate hikes threaten the survival of successful businesses; notes that the Northern Ireland Executive has paused its business rates revaluation to avoid large rates increases for many in the hospitality sector, and urges the Scottish Government to pause the implementation of Scotland's revaluations, open the appeals process immediately, and provide additional relief to businesses using the extra funding expected following the UK Government's announcement of relief for pubs and music venues."

followed by Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party Debate: Opposing the Scottish Government's Proposed Council Tax Rises

S6M-20654 Craig Hoy: Opposing the Scottish Government's Proposed Council Tax Rises—That the Parliament notes with concern the ongoing consultation on council tax reform; further notes that central government funding has been reduced in real terms in this and previous Scottish Government budgets; acknowledges the cumulative pressure on households from rising council tax, the introduction of additional local charges, fees and levies, and the increasing likelihood of further council tax rises; recognises the damaging impact that funding reductions are having on frontline and

statutory local authority services; expresses a lack of confidence that the current consultation will deliver fair or considered reform, given the Scottish Government's record of underfunding local government, and calls on the Scottish Government to withdraw the consultation and rule out proceeding with the proposed council tax reforms, including the plan to conduct a revaluation of every home in Scotland for council tax purposes, at a time when households are already struggling with rising bills.

The Presiding Officer has selected the following amendments

S6M-20654.2 Shona Robison: Opposing the Scottish Government's Proposed Council Tax Rises—As an amendment to motion S6M-20654 in the name of Craig Hoy (Opposing the Scottish Government's Proposed Council Tax Rises), leave out from "with concern" to end and insert "that each local authority sets its own council tax rates; recognises the importance of building political consensus through the current consultation to deliver fair reform to local government taxation, and welcomes that a 'Mansion Tax' will be brought forward in 2028 that will add two additional council tax bands, to be applied to properties valued at over £1 million."

S6M-20654.1 Michael Marra: Opposing the Scottish Government's Proposed Council Tax Rises—As an amendment to motion S6M-20654 in the name of Craig Hoy (Opposing the Scottish Government's Proposed Council Tax Rises), leave out from first "notes" to end and insert "is concerned for the future of local services, in light of nearly two decades of underfunding of local government by the Scottish National Party administration; regrets the failure of the Scottish Government to build a consensus for much-needed reform of local government taxation, and calls on the next Scottish administration to take leadership and create a sustainable, long-term funding solution for local government."

followed by Motion on Reconsideration of a Bill: European Charter of Local Self-Government (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill

S6M-20525 Mark Ruskell: European Charter of Local Self-Government (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill (Reconsideration)—That the Parliament agrees to reconsider the European Charter of Local Self-Government (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill.

followed by Urgent Question: Liam Kerr: To ask the Scottish Government whether it will publish the consultation on its proposal to reduce the automatic early release point for certain short-term prisoners from 40% to 30% of their sentence, including details of how and when responses can be submitted.

followed by Urgent Question: Finlay Carson: To ask the Scottish Government what immediate action it will take in light of the concerns raised by the Patient Safety Commissioner at the meeting of the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee on 3 February regarding transparency and risk mitigation in relation to maternity services in Wigtownshire.

followed by Business Motions

S6M-20668 Graeme Dey: Business Programme—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 10 February 2026

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Community Wealth Building (Scotland) Bill

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

7.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 11 February 2026

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands; Health and Social Care

followed by Scottish Labour Party Business

followed by Motion on Legislative Consent: Finance (No. 2) Bill – UK Legislation

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.10 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 12 February 2026

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

followed by Members' Business

2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.30 pm Portfolio Questions: Social Justice and Housing

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Budget (Scotland) (No. 5) Bill

followed by Motion on Legislative Consent: Medical Training (Prioritisation) Bill – UK Legislation

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 17 February 2026

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Children (Withdrawal from Religious Education and Amendment of UNCRC Compatibility Duty) (Scotland) Bill

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

6.30 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 18 February 2026

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Constitution, External Affairs and Culture, and Parliamentary Business; Justice and Home Affairs

followed by Scottish Green Party Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.10 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 19 February 2026

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

followed by Members' Business

2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.30 pm Portfolio Questions: Education and Skills

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Scottish Income Tax Rate Resolution 2026-27

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

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

(b) that, for the purposes of Portfolio Questions in the week beginning 9 February 2026, in rule 13.7.3, after the word “except” the words “to the extent to which the Presiding Officer considers that the questions are on the same or similar subject matter or” are inserted.

S6M-20669 Graeme Dey: Stage 1 Timetable—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Visitor Levy (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill at stage 1 be completed by 20 February 2026.

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

S6M-20670 Graeme Dey: Approval of SI—That the Parliament agrees that the Scotland Act 1998 (Modification of Schedule 5) Order 2026 [draft] be approved.

S6M-20671 Graeme Dey: Approval of SSI—That the Parliament agrees that the Animal Health (Fixed Penalty Notices) (Scotland) Regulations 2026 [draft] be approved.

6:00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business: Bill Kidd: The Mental Health Impact of Cell Therapies

S6M-19950 Bill Kidd: The Mental Health Impact of Cell Therapies—That the Parliament recognises the significant mental health impact that cell therapies such as stem cell transplant and CAR-T can have on patients and their families, not only in Glasgow Anniesland but across Scotland; notes the recommendations in the June 2025 report by the charity, Antony Nolan, *How we can improve the mental health and wellbeing of cell therapy patients*, and further notes the view that all those involved in the delivery of cell therapies should commit to working together towards these recommendations to ensure that every patient and family receive the support they deserve.

Committee Meetings

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

Education, Children and Young People Committee

5th Meeting, 2026

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

- 1. Children (Care, Care Experience and Services Planning) (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee will consider the Bill at Stage 2 (Day 1).

Rural Affairs and Islands Committee

5th Meeting, 2026

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

- 1. Crofting and Scottish Land Court Bill:** The Committee will consider the Bill at Stage 2 (Day 1).

Economy and Fair Work Committee

5th Meeting, 2026

The Committee will meet at 9:30AM in T1.60-CR4 The Clerk Maxwell Room

- 1. Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take items 4 and 5 in private.
- 2. Subordinate legislation:** The Committee will take evidence on the Public Procurement (India Trade Agreement) (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2026 [draft] from—
Ivan McKee, Minister for Public Finance and Emma Lopinska, Procurement Policy Manager, Scottish Government.
- 3. Subordinate legislation:** The Minister for Public Finance to move—S6M-20367—That the Economy and Fair Work Committee recommends that the Public Procurement (India Trade Agreement) (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2026 [draft] be approved.
- 4. Cyber Security and Resilience (Network and Information Systems) Bill (UK Parliament legislation):** The Committee will consider the legislative consent memorandum lodged by the Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs (LCM-S6-70).
- 5. City Region and Regional Growth Deals:** The Committee will consider the Scottish Government's response to the City and Regional Growth Deals report.
- 6. Work programme (In Private):** The Committee will consider its work programme.

Public Audit Committee

5th Meeting, 2026

The Committee will meet at 9:30AM in TG.60-CR3 The Fleming Room

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take agenda items 4, 5, 6 and 7 in private.
2. **The 2024/25 audit of the Scottish Government Consolidated Accounts/ Financial sustainability and taxes:** The Committee will take evidence from—
Joe Griffin, Permanent Secretary, Gregor Irwin, Director-General Economy, Shona Riach, Director-General Exchequer, Strategy and Performance, and Jackie McAllister, Chief Financial Officer, Scottish Government.
3. **The 2024/25 audit of Historic Environment Scotland:** The Committee will take evidence from—
Katerina Brown, Chief Executive, Sir Mark Jones, Chair, and Stephen Uphill, Chief Operating Officer, Historic Environment Scotland;
Shona Riach, Director-General Exchequer, Strategy and Performance and Kenneth Hogg, Director for Culture and External Affairs, Scottish Government.
4. **The 2024/25 audit of Historic Environment Scotland:** The Committee will consider the evidence heard at agenda item 3 and take further evidence from—
Stephen Boyle, Auditor General for Scotland;
Carole Grant, Audit Director and Lisa Duthie, Audit Director, Audit Scotland.
5. **The 2024/25 audit of the Scottish Government Consolidated Accounts/ Financial sustainability and taxes:** The Committee will consider the evidence heard at agenda item 2 and take further evidence from—
Stephen Boyle, Auditor General for Scotland;
Carole Grant, Audit Director, Inire Evong, Audit Manager, and Thomas Charman, Senior Auditor, Audit Scotland.
6. **The 2024/25 audit of the Scottish Government Consolidated Accounts/ Financial sustainability and taxes:** The Committee will consider the evidence heard at agenda items 2 and 5 and agree any further action it wishes to take.
7. **The 2024/25 audit of Historic Environment Scotland:** The Committee will consider the evidence heard at agenda items 3 and 4 and agree any further action it wishes to take.

Criminal Justice Committee 5th Meeting, 2026

The Committee will meet at 10:00AM in T4.60-CR6 The Livingstone Room

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take item 3 in private.
2. **Challenges and reforms facing the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service:** The Committee will take evidence from—
Colin Brown, Executive Council Member for Scotland and John McKenzie, Scottish Regional Secretary, Fire Brigades Union.
and then from—
Mhairi Wylie, Chair, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Board;
Stuart Stevens, Chief Officer, Andy Watt, Deputy Chief Officer, and Deborah Stanfield, Interim Director of Finance and Contractual Services, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

3. Challenges and reforms facing the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service: The Committee will consider the evidence it heard earlier under agenda item 2.

4. Work programme (In Private): The Committee will consider its work programme.

Contacts for Further Information

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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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