

Tuesday 17 February 2026

# Business Bulletin

*Iris Ghnothaichean*

Revised at 1:04pm



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Today's Business

Subject to the Parliament's agreement of S6M-20825, today's business will be as follows:

### Meeting of the Parliament

**2:00 pm** Time for Reflection: Rev Ruth Harvey,  
Leader of the Iona Community

**followed by** Parliamentary Bureau Motions

**followed by** Topical Questions

**followed by** Stage 1 Debate: Freedom of  
Information Reform (Scotland) Bill

**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

**6:45 pm** Decision Time

**followed by** Members' Business: Elena Whitham:  
Eating Disorders Awareness Week 2026

### Committee Meetings

**8:45am** Net Zero, Energy and Transport  
Committee

**9:00am** Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice  
Committee

**9:00am** Finance and Public Administration  
Committee

**9:15am** Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

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

**10:00am** Delegated Powers and Law Reform  
Committee

## Meeting of the Parliament

Subject to the Parliament's agreement of S6M-20825, today's business will be as follows:

**2:00 pm** Time for Reflection: Rev Ruth Harvey, Leader of the Iona Community

**followed by** Parliamentary Bureau Motions

**[S6M-20825](#) Graeme Dey: Revision to Business Programme**—That the Parliament agrees to the following revisions to the programme of business for—

(a) Tuesday 17 February 2026—

delete

7.45 pm Decision Time

and insert

6.45 pm Decision Time

(b) Thursday 19 February 2026—

after

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

insert

*followed by* Financial Resolution: Ecocide (Scotland) Bill

*followed by* Reappointment of the Chair of the Scottish Fiscal Commission

**followed by** Topical Questions

**1. Brian Whittle:** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on its decision to escalate NHS Ayrshire and Arran to Stage 4 of the national improvement framework. ([S6T-02902](#))

**2. Alex Rowley:** To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to new figures on unmet need for palliative care that were published by Marie Curie on 16 February, showing that almost one in three people in Scotland die with unmet palliative care needs. ([S6T-02900](#))

**3. Douglas Ross:** To ask the Scottish Government whether anyone who works for the Scottish Government, including ministers, special advisers or civil servants, was involved in discussions concerning the postponement of the trial of Peter Murrell until after the Scottish Parliament election in May. ([S6T-02896](#))

**followed by** Stage 1 Debate: Freedom of Information Reform (Scotland) Bill

**[S6M-20815](#) Katy Clark: Freedom of Information Reform (Scotland) Bill**—That the Parliament agrees to the general principles of the Freedom of Information Reform (Scotland) Bill.

The Presiding Officer has selected the following amendment

**[S6M-20815.1](#) Sue Webber: Freedom of Information Reform (Scotland) Bill**—As an amendment to motion S6M-20815 in the name of Katy Clark (Freedom of Information Reform (Scotland) Bill), insert at end “, but, in so doing, highlights the time pressure in the current parliamentary session and the views in the stage 1 report, including that Freedom of Information reform should be addressed in the next parliamentary session.”

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

**[S6M-20818](#) Graeme Dey: Stage 3 Timetable**—That the Parliament agrees that, during stage 3 of the Children (Withdrawal from Religious Education and Amendment of UNCRC Compatibility Duty) (Scotland) Bill, debate on groups of amendments shall, subject to Rule 9.8.4A, be brought to a conclusion by the time limits indicated, those time limits being calculated from when the stage begins and excluding any periods when other business is under consideration or when a meeting of the Parliament is suspended or otherwise not in progress:

Groups 1 to 3: 1 hour 10 minutes

Groups 4 to 6: 2 hours 5 minutes.

**[S6M-20813](#) Jenny Gilruth: Children (Withdrawal from Religious Education and Amendment of UNCRC Compatibility Duty) (Scotland) Bill**—That the Parliament agrees that the Children (Withdrawal from Religious Education and Amendment of UNCRC Compatibility Duty) (Scotland) Bill be passed.

**followed by** Committee Announcements

**followed by** Business Motions

**followed by** Parliamentary Bureau Motions

**6:45 pm** Decision Time

**followed by** Members' Business: Elena Whitham: Eating Disorders Awareness Week 2026

**[S6M-20319](#) Elena Whitham: Eating Disorders Awareness Week 2026**—That the Parliament recognises Eating Disorders Awareness Week 2026, which runs from 23 February to 1 March; understands that the theme for the week is "Community", to highlight that, while eating disorders can be isolating for those experiencing them and the people supporting them, there is value in connecting with others who have shared experiences; notes that the eating disorder charity, Beat, estimates that 1.25 million people across the UK, and 100,000 people in Scotland, have an eating disorder; recognises that data suggests that the prevalence of eating disorders has increased since the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020; acknowledges the comprehensive recommendations set out in the 2021 National Review of Eating Disorder Services, and notes the view that, while work is being carried out by organisations such as Beat to increase peer support and training services, further measures are required to address this growing issue.

## Committee Meetings

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

### Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee 7th Meeting, 2026

The Committee will meet at 8:45AM in T4.40-CR2 The Fairfax Somerville Room

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take items 8, 9 and 10 in private.

The Committee will decide whether consideration of the draft report on the draft Climate Change Plan should be taken in private at future meetings.

2. **NatureScot (Annual Report and Accounts and future priorities):** The Committee will take evidence from—  
Nick Halfhide, Chief Executive Officer and Professor Pete Higgins, Board Member, NatureScot.
3. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee will take evidence on the National Bus Travel Concession Schemes (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) (No2) Order 2026 and the National Bus Travel Concession Schemes (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Order 2026 from—  
Jim Fairlie, Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity and Kelly Minio-Paluello, Solicitor, Scottish Government;  
Carole Stewart, Head of Bus Strategy and Funding Policy Unit, Gary McIntyre, Economist - Bus, Active Travel & Low Carbon Economics, and Jenn Ruddick, Team Leader - Concessionary Travel, Transport Scotland.
4. **Subordinate legislation:** Jim Fairlie (Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity) to move—S6M-20454—That the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee recommends that the National Bus Travel Concession Schemes (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) (No. 2) Order 2026 [draft] be approved.
5. **Subordinate legislation:** Jim Fairlie (Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity) to move—S6M-20799—That the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee recommends that the National Bus Travel Concession Schemes (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Order 2026 [draft] be approved.
6. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee will take evidence on the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Offshore Wind) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2026 from—  
Gillian Martin, Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Energy, Joel Hankinson, Head of Energy Act Implementation, Offshore Wind Directorate, and David Moffat, Solicitor, Scottish Government.
7. **Subordinate legislation:** Gillian Martin (Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Energy) to move—S6M-20459—That the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee recommends that the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Offshore Wind) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2026 [draft] be approved.

- 8. NatureScot (Annual Report and Accounts and future priorities):** The Committee will consider the evidence heard earlier in the meeting.
- 9. Appointment to the Board of Environmental Standards Scotland:** The Committee will consider correspondence from the Scottish Government.
- 10. Ecocide (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee will consider its approach to the scrutiny of the Bill at Stage 2.

### **Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee 5th Meeting, 2026**

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

- 1. Inquiry into Neurodivergence in Scotland:** The Committee will take evidence from—  
Sarah Angus, Director of Policy, Scottish Prison Service;  
Laura Buchan, Legal Director for Deaths Investigations, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service;  
May Dunsmuir, Chamber President of the Health and Education Chamber, First-tier Tribunal for Scotland;  
Superintendent Graeme Gallie, delivery lead for the Neurodiversity Strategic Working Group, Police Scotland;  
John Good, criminal defence practitioner and member of the Criminal Law Committee, Law Society of Scotland;  
Dr Inga Heyman, Associate Professor (Policing and Public Health), Edinburgh Napier University;  
Dr Natasha Spassiani, Associate Professor in Intellectual (Learning) Disability and Health Equity, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), Toronto.  
and then from—  
Bill Colley, Chair, Scottish ADHD Coalition;  
Dani Cosgrove, Chief Operating Officer, Stronger Together for Autism and Neurodivergence (STAND);  
Rob Holland, Director, National Autistic Society Scotland;  
Dorry McLaughlin, Chief Executive, Scottish Autism;  
Jenny Miller, Chief Executive, PAMIS - Promoting a more inclusive society.
- 2. Human rights, equalities and access to services in rural areas of Scotland (In Private):** The Committee will consider a draft report.
- 3. Inquiry into Neurodivergence in Scotland (In Private):** The Committee will consider the evidence it heard under agenda item 1.

### **Finance and Public Administration Committee 7th Meeting, 2026**

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

- 1. Legacy issues: public administration:** The Committee will take evidence from—  
Sarah Davidson, Chief Executive, Carnegie UK;  
Alison Payne, Research Director, Enlighten;  
Dr Ian Elliott, Senior Lecturer in Public Administration, University of Glasgow;

Professor Paul Cairney, Professor of Politics and Public Policy, University of Stirling.

2. **Budget (Scotland) (No. 5) Bill:** The Committee will consider the Bill at Stage 2.
3. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee will take evidence on the Budget (Scotland) Act 2025 Amendment Regulations 2026 [draft] from—  
Ivan McKee, Minister for Public Finance, Craig Maidment, Senior Finance Manager, and Claire Hughes, Head of Corporate Reporting, Scottish Government.
4. **Subordinate legislation:** Ivan McKee (Minister for Public Finance) to move—

S6M-20541—That the Finance and Public Administration Committee recommends that the Budget (Scotland) Act 2025 Amendment Regulations 2026 [draft] be approved.

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

## Health, Social Care and Sport Committee 8th Meeting, 2026

The Committee will meet at 9:15AM in TG.60-CR3 The Fleming Room

1. **Decisions on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take items 9, 10 and 11 in private.
2. **Food Standards Scotland and the first national Good Food Nation Plan:** The Committee will take evidence from—  
Professor Mary Brennan, Director of Living Good Food Nation Lab, University of Edinburgh;  
Heather Kelman, Chair and Geoff Ogle, Chief Executive, Food Standards Scotland.
3. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee will take evidence on the [Community Care \(Personal Care and Nursing Care\) \(Scotland\) Amendment Regulations 2026](#) from—  
Tom Arthur, Minister for Social Care and Mental Wellbeing, Christina McLaren, Unit Head, Fair Work in Adult Social Care, and Ian Turner, Deputy Director, Adult Social Care Workforce and Fair Work, Scottish Government.
4. **Subordinate legislation:** Tom Arthur (Minister for Social Care and Mental Wellbeing) to move—

[S6M-20534](#)—That the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee recommends that the Community Care (Personal Care and Nursing Care) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2026 be approved.

5. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee will take evidence on the [Care Home Services \(Visits to and by Care Home Residents\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2026](#) from—  
Tom Arthur, Minister for Social Care and Mental Wellbeing, Jennifer Gilmour, Team Leader, Social Care Immediate Response and Improvement, Fiona Hodgkiss, Unit Head, Social Care Immediate Response and Improvement, and Laura Kennedy, Solicitor, Scottish Government.
6. **Subordinate legislation:** Tom Arthur (Minister for Social Care and Mental Wellbeing) to move—

[S6M-20536](#)—That the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee recommends that the Care Home Services (Visits to and by Care Home Residents) (Scotland) Regulations 2026 be approved.

7. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee will consider the following negative instruments—

[National Health Service \(Functions of the Common Services Agency\) \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Scotland\) Order 2026](#)

[NHS Education for Scotland and Common Services Agency \(Transfer of Staff\) Regulations 2026](#)

8. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee will consider the following proposed draft order—

[Proposed Draft Order: The Mental Health \(Care and Treatment\) \(Scotland\) Act 2003 Remedial Order 2026](#)

9. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee will consider a draft report on the [Community Care \(Personal Care and Nursing Care\) \(Scotland\) Amendment Regulations 2026](#).

10. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee will consider a draft report on the [Care Home Services \(Visits to and by Care Home Residents\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2026](#).

11. **Food Standards Scotland and the first national Good Food Nation Plan:** The Committee will consider the evidence it heard earlier under agenda item 2.

## Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee 7th Meeting, 2026

The Committee will meet at 9:30AM 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. **Subordinate Legislation:** The Committee will take evidence on—

[the Private Housing Rent Control \(Exempt Property\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2026 \[draft\]](#)

[the Investigation and Commencement of Repair \(Scotland\) Regulations 2026 \[draft\]](#)

[the Council Tax \(Variation for Unoccupied Dwellings\) \(Scotland\) Amendment Regulations 2026 \[draft\]](#)

anticipated regulations introducing minimum energy efficiency standards for private rented sector properties

from—

Gillian Campbell, Director, Existing Homes Alliance Scotland;  
Anna Gardiner, Senior Policy Adviser (Business & Property), Scottish Land and Estates;  
Gillian McLees, National Director, Chartered Institute of Housing Scotland;  
Tom Ockendon, Policy Lead, Scottish Federation of Housing Associations.

and then from—

Mike Callaghan, Policy Manager, COSLA;  
Aoife Deery, Senior Policy Officer (Social Justice), Citizens Advice Scotland;  
Sharon Egan, Representative, Association of Local Authority Chief Housing Officers (ALACHO);  
Emma Saunders, National Organiser, Living Rent;  
Elaine Waterson, Policy Manager (Scotland), Energy Saving Trust.

**3. Subordinate legislation:** The Committee will consider the following negative instruments—

[Non-Domestic Rate \(Scotland\) Order 2026](#) (SSI 2026/39)

[Non-Domestic Rating \(Valuation of Utilities\) \(Scotland\) Amendment Order 2026](#) (SSI 2026/44)

**4. Subordinate Legislation:** The Committee will consider the evidence it heard earlier under agenda item 2.

### **Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee 7th Meeting, 2026**

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

**1. Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take item 5 in private.

**2. Instruments subject to affirmative procedure:** The Committee will consider the following—

[Hate Crime and Public Order \(Scotland\) Act 2021 \(Characteristic of Sex\) \(Amendment and Transitional Provisions\) Regulations 2026](#) (SSI 2026/Draft)

[Investigation and Commencement of Repair \(Scotland\) Regulations 2026](#) (SSI 2026/Draft)

[First-tier Tribunal for Scotland Local Taxation Chamber and Upper Tribunal for Scotland \(Composition and Rules of Procedure\) \(Miscellaneous Amendment\) Regulations 2026](#) (SSI 2026/Draft)

[Scottish Elections \(Representation and Reform\) Act 2025 \(Consequential Provision\) Regulations 2026](#) (SSI 2026/Draft)

[First-tier Tribunal for Scotland \(Allocation of Functions to the Local Taxation Chamber\) Regulations 2026](#) (SSI 2026/Draft)

**3. Instruments subject to negative procedure:** The Committee will consider the following—

[National Assistance \(Assessment of Resources\) Amendment \(Scotland\) Regulations 2026](#) (SSI 2026/42)

[National Assistance \(Sums for Personal Requirements\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2026](#) (SSI 2026/43)

[Town and Country Planning \(Fees for Appeals\) \(Scotland\) Amendment Regulations 2026](#) (SSI 2026/47)

[Town and Country Planning \(Fees for Local Reviews\) \(Scotland\) Amendment Regulations 2026](#) (SSI 2026/48)

[Town and Country Planning \(Fees for Applications\) \(Scotland\) Amendment Regulations 2026](#) (SSI 2026/49)

[Scottish Road Works Register \(Prescribed Fees\) Regulations 2026](#) (SSI 2026/52)

[National Health Service \(Common Staffing Method\) \(Scotland\) Amendment Regulations 2026](#) (SSI 2026/54)

[Council Tax Reduction \(Miscellaneous Amendment\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2026](#) (SSI 2026/56)

[Water Environment \(Shellfish Water Protected Areas: Designation\) \(Scotland\) Order 2026](#) (SSI 2026/57)

[Police Pension Scheme \(Scotland\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2026](#) (SSI 2026/58)

[Education \(Fees and Student Support\) \(Miscellaneous Amendment\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2026](#) (SSI 2026/63)

[Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland \(Cancellation of Registration\) Order 2026](#) (SSI 2026/64)

[Official Controls \(Location of Border Control Posts\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2026](#) (SSI 2026/61)

**4. Instruments not subject to any parliamentary procedure:** The Committee will consider the following—

[Act of Sederunt \(Rules of the Court of Session 1994 Amendment\) \(Court Sittings\) 2026](#) (SSI 2026/53)

**5. Scottish Parliament (Recall and Removal of Members) Bill:** The Committee will consider the delegated powers provisions in this Bill after Stage 2.

## Contacts for Further Information

All telephone numbers 0131 348 XXXX

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

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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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