

Wednesday 25 February 2026

Business Bulletin

Iris Ghnothaichean

Revised at 2:20pm



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Today's Business

Meeting of the Parliament

2:00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2:00 pm Motion of Condolence

followed by Portfolio Questions: Deputy First Minister Responsibilities, Economy and Gaelic; Finance and Local Government

followed by Ministerial Statement: Protecting Children from Harm

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Budget (Scotland) (No. 5) Bill

followed by Urgent Question: Stephen Kerr: To ask the Scottish Government for what reason the March 2025 memorandum relating to the Peter Murrell case was not referenced by the Lord Advocate during her appearance last week when answering an Urgent Question from Michael Marra MSP regarding her briefing of the First Minister.

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

6:15 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business: Gillian Mackay: Recognising the Contribution that Football Clubs and their Fans Make to Society

Committee Meetings

9:00am Rural Affairs and Islands Committee

9:30am Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee

9:30am Education, Children and Young People Committee

9:30am Public Audit Committee

10:00am Criminal Justice Committee

1:00pm Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee

Meeting of the Parliament

2:00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2:00 pm Motion of Condolence

[S6M-20721](#) John Swinney: Motion of Condolence—That the Parliament expresses its shock and sadness following the death of Jeane Freeman; appreciates her long contribution to public life and politics, including as the MSP for Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley, Minister for Social Security, where she established Social Security Scotland, and Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport during the COVID-19 pandemic; recognises the high esteem in which she was held by civic society and colleagues in all parties, and offers its deepest sympathy and condolences to her partner, family and many friends.

followed by Portfolio Questions: Deputy First Minister Responsibilities, Economy and Gaelic; Finance and Local Government

Deputy First Minister Responsibilities, Economy and Gaelic

- 1. Annabelle Ewing:** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on support provided to the Mossmorran workforce, following the early closure of the ExxonMobil Fife Ethylene Plant. ([S6O-05547](#))
- 2. Paul Sweeney:** To ask the Scottish Government what recent assessment it has made of the finance available for commercial shipbuilding projects at Scottish shipyards, including how the competitiveness of this compares with that of other European nations with commercial shipbuilding industries. R ([S6O-05548](#)) R
- 3. Bill Kidd:** To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it has made of the economic contribution of the Scottish food and drink sector to Scotland's international exports. ([S6O-05549](#))
- 4. Carol Mochan:** To ask the Scottish Government, following Orbex entering administration, what the likelihood is of the public purse receiving a return on the money invested in the company by the Scottish National Investment Bank. ([S6O-05550](#))
- 5. George Adam:** To ask the Scottish Government what analysis has been undertaken of the Scottish economy's performance since the UK withdrew from the EU. ([S6O-05551](#))
- 6. Jamie Hepburn:** To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it has made of any benefits brought by the banking hub model that is operated by Post Office Ltd and funded by Cash Access UK. ([S6O-05552](#))
- 7. Murdo Fraser:** To ask the Scottish Government how it is supporting the tourism industry. ([S6O-05553](#))
- 8. Dr Pam Gosal MBE:** To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland stating there is a "lack of a clear, long-term economic strategy for Scotland". ([S6O-05554](#))

Finance and Local Government

- 1. Emma Roddick:** [Not Lodged] ([S6O-05555](#))
- 2. Liam McArthur:** To ask the Scottish Government when it will publish responses to its consultation on a potential point of entry levy. ([S6O-05556](#))

3. Rachael Hamilton: To ask the Scottish Government how much it has allocated in its draft Budget 2026-27 to support women in enterprise, including in the Scottish Borders. ([S6O-05557](#))

4. Craig Hoy: [Withdrawn] ([S6O-05558](#))

5. Maggie Chapman:

To ask the Scottish Government what assessment the finance secretary has made of the impact of lengthy national budget consultation processes on the financial sustainability of third sector organisations in north east Scotland. ([S6O-05559](#))

6. Jeremy Balfour: To ask the Scottish Government whether regulations rectifying the oversight whereby children in receipt of the Scottish Child Disability Payment were not receiving an exemption under the Visitor Levy (Scotland) Act 2024 will be introduced before the end of the current parliamentary session. ([S6O-05560](#))

7. Katy Clark: To ask the Scottish Government what steps it is taking to ensure that local authorities receive fair and sustainable funding settlements. ([S6O-05561](#))

8. Neil Bibby: To ask the Scottish Government how much funding it has allocated to local authorities for the delivery of the Learn to Swim programme in its Budget 2026-27. ([S6O-05562](#))

followed by Ministerial Statement: Protecting Children from Harm

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Budget (Scotland) (No. 5) Bill

[S6M-20860](#) Shona Robison: Budget (Scotland) (No. 5) Bill—That the Parliament agrees that the Budget (Scotland) (No. 5) Bill be passed.

followed by Urgent Question: Stephen Kerr: To ask the Scottish Government for what reason the March 2025 memorandum relating to the Peter Murrell case was not referenced by the Lord Advocate during her appearance last week when answering an Urgent Question from Michael Marra MSP regarding her briefing of the First Minister.

followed by Business Motions

[S6M-20898](#) Graeme Dey: Business Programme—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 3 March 2026

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Contract (Formation and Remedies) (Scotland) Bill

followed by Reconsideration Stage Proceedings: European Charter of Local Self-Government (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 4 March 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 Liberal Democrats Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.10 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 5 March 2026

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

followed by Members' Business

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Social Justice and Housing

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Digital Assets (Scotland) Bill

followed by Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee Debate: Climate Change Plan

followed by Appointment of Board Member to Environmental Standards Scotland

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.30 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 10 March 2026

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

10.00 pm Decision Time

Wednesday 11 March 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 Stage 3 Proceedings: Crofting and Scottish Land Court Bill

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

7.30 pm Decision Time

Thursday 12 March 2026

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

followed by Members' Business

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Education and Skills

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Building Safety Levy (Scotland) Bill

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Greyhound Racing (Offences) (Scotland) Bill

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.30 pm Decision Time

(b) that, for the purposes of Portfolio Questions in the week beginning 2 March 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.

The Presiding Officer has selected the following amendment

[S6M-20898.1 Murdo Fraser: Business Programme](#)—As an amendment to motion S6M-20898 in the name of Graeme Dey (Business Programme), after “That the Parliament agrees—” insert—

"(za) the following revision to the programme of business for Thursday 26 February 2026—

delete

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.30 pm Decision Time

and insert

followed by Ministerial Statement: Lord Advocate Communications with the First Minister Regarding Court Cases, including on Peter Murrell

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

6.00 pm Decision Time".

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

[S6M-20899](#) Graeme Dey: Approval of SSI—That the Parliament agrees that the Absent Voting (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Order 2026 [draft] be approved.

[S6M-20900](#) Graeme Dey: Approval of SSI—That the Parliament agrees that the Absent Voting (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2026 [draft] be approved.

[S6M-20901](#) Graeme Dey: Approval of SSI—That the Parliament agrees that the Digital Waste Tracking (Scotland) Regulations 2026 [draft] be approved.

6:15 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business: Gillian Mackay: Recognising the Contribution that Football Clubs and their Fans Make to Society

[S6M-20769](#) Gillian Mackay: Recognising the Contribution that Football Clubs and their Fans Make to Society—That the Parliament notes that football is one of the most loved and successful sports in the country and that Scotland boasts some of the most loyal supporters anywhere in Europe, but believes that, often, fans feel they are taken for granted or are an afterthought; considers that, across the country, including in the Central Scotland region, supporters groups and community trusts or charitable foundations attached to professional clubs are often enhancing their environment and giving back to those who find themselves in challenging situations, from foodbank collections to mental health initiatives; believes that football fans are often the beating heart of their communities, creating unity in spaces where division can be prevalent; considers that, with rising living costs, varying ticket prices and high transport costs, the current landscape is making it difficult for working-class fans and families to afford to follow their club, an outlet, it believes, that allows hundreds of thousands of people across the country an escapism and a sense of optimism in a time of struggle; recognises that a price cap has been in place in England for over a decade and means that travelling fans do not pay more than £30 for a ticket, yet understands that no such cap exists at present in Scotland; notes the calls for all 42 Scottish Professional Football League (SPFL) clubs, as well as the Scottish Football Association (SFA) to put fans first; further notes the view that the voices of supporters should be heard by decision makers and amplified within the Scottish Parliament, and

notes the belief that those running the national game should listen to the calls from the Scottish Supporters Collective and many fans across the country and cap away football ticket prices at £25.

Committee Meetings

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

Rural Affairs and Islands Committee 8th Meeting, 2026

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

- 1. Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to consider item 6 in private. The Committee will also decide whether to review the evidence taken as part of its follow-up inquiry into salmon farming in Scotland in private at item 7 and at future meetings.
- 2. Follow-up inquiry into salmon farming in Scotland:** The Committee will take evidence from—
Professor Cathy Dwyer, Chair, Scottish Animal Welfare Commission;
Ben Hadfield, Director, Salmon Scotland;
Dr Amy Jennings, Veterinary Lead, Animal and Plant Health Agency;
Peter Pollard, Senior Lead, Projects, Scottish Environment Protection Agency;
Neil Purvis, Delivery Lead, Fish Health Inspectorate, Marine Directorate, Scottish Government;
Dr Alan Wells, Chief Executive, Fisheries Management Scotland.
- 3. Subordinate legislation:** The Committee will take evidence on the [Marine Licensing \(Exempted Activities\) \(Scottish Inshore Region\) Amendment Order 2026](#) (SSI 2026/draft) from—
Mairi Gougeon, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands, Jill Barber, Head of Aquaculture Development, and Joseph Triscott, Aquaculture Policy Manager, Scottish Government.
- 4. Subordinate legislation:** Mairi Gougeon, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands to move—

S6M-20638—That the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee recommends that the Marine Licensing (Exempted Activities) (Scottish Inshore Region) Amendment Order 2026 be approved.
- 5. Subordinate legislation:** The Committee will consider the following negative instrument—

[Environmental Authorisations \(Scotland\) Amendment Regulations 2026](#) (SSI 2026/55)
- 6. Legacy paper:** The Committee will consider whether it wishes to publish a legacy paper at the end of session.
- 7. Follow-up inquiry into salmon farming in Scotland:** The Committee will consider the evidence heard earlier in the meeting.

Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee 5th Meeting, 2026

The Committee will meet at 9:30AM in T1.40-CR5 The Smith Room

1. **Consideration of continued petitions:** The Committee will consider the following continued petitions—

PE1887: Create an Unborn Victims of Violence Act;

PE1900: Access to prescribed medication for detainees in police custody;

PE1979: Establish an independent inquiry and an independent national whistleblowing officer to investigate concerns about the alleged mishandling of child safeguarding enquiries by public bodies;

PE2028: Extend the concessionary bus travel scheme to include people seeking asylum in Scotland;

PE2085: Introduce a statutory definition of residency for Fatal Accident Inquiries into the deaths of Scots abroad;

PE2113: Provide support to RAAC-affected communities;

PE2118: Review and restructure Scotland's flood risk management approach and operations;

PE2130: Make it illegal to remove all the hair from a horse's tail;

PE2161: Extend the time period for complaints through the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman for neurodivergent people to two years;

PE2165: Raise awareness of and provide educational resources and training for Functional Neurological Disorder (FND);

PE2170: Abolish the General Teaching Council for Scotland;

PE2173: Ban ultra-processed foods in school meals;

PE2178: Introduce mandatory latex labelling for food products sold in Scotland;

PE2185: Introduce stronger safeguards around the use of digital material in court proceedings;

PE2188: Extend the National Entitlement Card scheme to include ferry travel for people aged 60 and over;

PE2193: Address Dangerous Delays in Paediatric Cancer Diagnostics; and

PE2196: Address early sexual offending in Scotland.

Education, Children and Young People Committee

8th Meeting, 2026

The Committee will meet at 9:30AM in TG.40-CR1 The Burns Room

- 1. Group-based child sexual abuse and exploitation:** The Committee will take evidence from—
Professor Alexis Jay, Independent Chair, National Strategic Group on Child Sexual Abuse;
Craig Naylor, HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary in Scotland, HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland;
Deputy Chief Constable Bex Smith, DCC (Transformation) and Detective Chief Superintendent Sarah Taylor, Head of Public Protection, Police Scotland.
- 2. Annual report (In Private):** The Committee will consider a draft annual report for the parliamentary year from 13 May 2025 to 8 April 2026.

Public Audit Committee

8th 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 agenda items 4, 5, 6 and 7 in private.
- 2. The 2024/25 audit of NHS Ayrshire and Arran and the 2024/25 audit of NHS Grampian:** The Committee will take evidence from—
Gordon James, Interim Chief Executive, Lesley Bowie, Chair, and Dr Crawford McGuffie, Executive Medical Director, NHS Ayrshire and Arran;
Laura Skaife-Knight, Chief Executive, Alison Evison, Chair, and Alex Stephen, Director of Finance, NHS Grampian.
- 3. Scottish Government's approach to financial interventions: GFG Alliance:** The Committee will take evidence from—
Jeffrey Kabel, Chief Transformation Officer, Liberty Steel Group;
Helen Lambert, Senior Legal Counsel, GFG Alliance.
- 4. The 2024/25 audit of NHS Ayrshire and Arran and 2024/25 audit of NHS Grampian:** The Committee will consider the evidence heard at agenda item 2 and take further evidence from—
Stephen Boyle, Auditor General for Scotland;
Fiona Mitchell-Knight, Audit Director and Leigh Johnston, Senior Manager, Audit Scotland.

5. **The 2024/25 audit of NHS Ayrshire and Arran and the 2024/25 audit of NHS Grampian:** The Committee will consider the evidence heard and agenda items 2 and 4 and agree any further action it wishes to take.
6. **Scottish Government's approach to financial interventions: GFG Alliance:** The Committee will consider the evidence heard at agenda item 3 and agree any further action it wishes to take.
7. **Work programme:** The Committee will consider its work programme.

Criminal Justice Committee 8th Meeting, 2026

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

1. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee will take evidence on the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021 (Characteristic of Sex) (Amendment and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2026 [draft] from—
Angela Constance, Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs, Patrick Down, Criminal Law, Procedure and Sentencing Team, and Jasmin Hepburn, Legal Directorate, Scottish Government.
2. **Subordinate legislation:** Angela Constance (Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs) to move—

S6M-20601—That the Criminal Justice Committee recommends that the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021 (Characteristic of Sex) (Amendment and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2026 [draft] be approved.
3. **Crime and Policing Bill (UK Parliament legislation):** The Committee will take evidence on supplementary legislative consent memorandum LCM-S6-57c from—
Angela Constance, Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs, Yvonne Edmond, International Justice Cooperation Team, Kristy Adams, Organised Crime Unit, Patrick Down, Criminal Law, Procedure and Sentencing Team, and Siân Morland, Child Protection Unit, Scottish Government.
4. **Crime and Policing Bill (UK Parliament legislation):** The Committee will consider the supplementary legislative consent memorandum lodged by Angela Constance, Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs (LCM-S6-57c).
5. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee will take evidence on the Early Removal of Prisoners from the United Kingdom (Amendment of Specified Time Periods) (Scotland) Order 2026 [draft] from—
Angela Constance, Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs, David Doris, Prison Policy Team, and Hannah Hutchison, Legal Directorate, Scottish Government.
6. **Subordinate legislation:** Angela Constance (Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs) to move—

S6M-20532—That the Criminal Justice Committee recommends that the Early Removal of

Prisoners from the United Kingdom (Amendment of Specified Time Periods) (Scotland) Order 2026 [draft] be approved.

- 7. Subordinate legislation:** The Committee will take evidence on the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exclusions and Exceptions) (Domestic Homicide and Suicide Reviews) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2026 [draft] from—
Angela Constance, Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs, Mary Hill, Criminal Justice Reform Unit, and Louise Miller, Solicitor, Legal Directorate, Scottish Government.
- 8. Subordinate legislation:** Angela Constance (Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs) to move—

S6M-20637—That the Criminal Justice Committee recommends that the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exclusions and Exceptions) (Domestic Homicide and Suicide Reviews) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2026 [draft] be approved.

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee 9th Meeting, 2026

The Committee will meet at 1:00PM in T4.40-CR2 The Fairfax Somerville Room

- 1. Draft Climate Change Plan (In Private):** The Committee will continue its consideration of a draft report.

Contacts for Further Information

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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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