

Tuesday 8 September 2026

# Business Bulletin

*Iris Ghnothaichean*

Revised at 2:12pm



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Resignation of junior Scottish Minister

In accordance with Rule 4.8.2 of Standing Orders, the Presiding Officer wishes to notify the Parliament of the resignation of Ben Macpherson as a junior Scottish Minister.

## Election of Convener of the Criminal Justice Committee – Nomination process

The nomination period for the election of the Convener of the Criminal Justice Committee is now open. Nomination forms can be obtained from T1.03 (Parliamentary Business Team located in the Chamber Office at the top of the Garden Lobby steps). Hard copies of nomination forms must be returned to the Business Team by 1.00pm on Wednesday 9 September.

Only Members of the SNP are eligible to be nominated for convenership of the committee. For a candidate to be eligible they must be nominated by a member of the SNP and seconded by a member of another party. If a vote is required, it will take place on the afternoon of Wednesday 9 September. It will be conducted by secret ballot and so Members need to attend in person in order to vote.

## Today's Business

Subject to the Parliament's agreement of S7M-01095, today's business will be as follows:

### Meeting of the Parliament

**2:00 pm** Time for Reflection: Ailsa McMillan, Humanist Celebrant, Humanist Society Scotland

**followed by** Parliamentary Bureau Motions

**followed by** General Questions

**followed by** First Minister's Questions (Backbench Members)

**followed by** Appointment of Junior Scottish Minister

**followed by** Scottish Government Debate: Programme for Government – An Economy Fit for the Future

**followed by** Committee Announcements

**followed by** Business Motions

**followed by** Parliamentary Bureau Motions

**5:30 pm** Decision Time

### Committee Meetings

**8:45am** Education and Gaelic Committee

**9:30am** Economy, Tourism and Energy Committee

**9:30am** Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee

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

**followed by** Members' Business: Scottish Fire and  
Rescue Service's Service Delivery Review

## Meeting of the Parliament

Subject to the Parliament's agreement of S7M-01095, today's business will be as follows:

**2:00 pm** Time for Reflection: Ailsa McMillan, Humanist Celebrant, Humanist Society Scotland

**followed by** Parliamentary Bureau Motions

**[S7M-01095](#) Jamie Hepburn: Revision to Business Programme—**That the Parliament agrees to the following revisions to the programme of business for—

(a) Tuesday 8 September 2026—

after

First Minister's Questions (Backbench Members)

insert

*followed by* Appointment of Junior Scottish Minister

(b) Wednesday 9 September 2026—

after

Portfolio Questions: Public Service Reform, Europe, External Affairs and Energy

insert

*followed by* Ministerial Statement: Response to the Detection of Bluetongue Virus Serotype 3 (BTV3) in the South-West of Scotland

**[S7M-01096](#) Jamie Hepburn: Election of Committee Convener—**That the Parliament agrees, under Rule 12.1.2C, that:

(a) election of convener of the Criminal Justice Committee will take place on Wednesday 9 September 2026;

(b) that the location of the election will be Committee Room 5 (the Smith Room); and

(c) that the voting period of the election will commence at 2.30pm and conclude at 7pm.

**followed by** General Questions

**1. Kate Nevens:** To ask the Scottish Government, in light of its apology on the matter, what its position is on the recommendation of the Scottish Human Rights Commission to provide compensation to victims and families affected by forced assimilation, displacement and other historic

wrongs perpetrated by the state in connection with the “Tinker experiment”, which sought to assimilate Scotland's Gypsy/Traveller communities. ([S7O-00174](#))

**2. Patricia Gibson:** To ask the Scottish Government what action it will take to embed the teaching of the Scottish Enlightenment in the school curriculum. ([S7O-00175](#))

**3. Pauline Stafford:** To ask the Scottish Government what engagement it has had with Police Scotland regarding efforts to deal with antisocial and criminal behaviour involving illegal e-bikes, e-scooters and off-road motorbikes in West Lothian and across Scotland. ([S7O-00177](#))

**4. Katie Hagmann:** To ask the Scottish Government how the actions set out in Scotland's Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2026-2029 will be delivered in rural areas such as the Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley constituency, including what measures will be used to assess their local impact. ([S7O-00178](#))

**5. Ariane Burgess:** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking following Environmental Standards Scotland's finding that Scottish Ministers have failed to fulfil their legal duties to protect and restore Scotland's seafloor. ([S7O-00179](#))

**6. Tim Eagle:** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to reduce delayed discharge at Raigmore Hospital, in light of the reported reduction in nursing home and community beds in the Highlands. ([S7O-00180](#))

**7. Gary Bouse:** To ask the Scottish Government what progress there has been with NHS Forth Valley due to it being in special measures. ([S7O-00181](#)) **R**

**followed by** First Minister's Questions (Backbench Members)

**followed by** Appointment of Junior Scottish Minister

**[S7M-01088](#) John Swinney: Appointment of Junior Scottish Minister—**That the Parliament agrees that Alyn Smith be appointed as a junior Scottish Minister.

**followed by** Scottish Government Debate: Programme for Government – An Economy Fit for the Future

**[S7M-01070](#) Stephen Flynn: Programme for Government, An Economy Fit for the Future—**That the Parliament notes the publication of the Scottish Government's Programme for Government, *Ambitious for Scotland*, and its aims for a strong and sustainable economy; welcomes the commitment to deliver economic growth and make Scotland the best place to invest and do business; recognises that raising living standards through supporting the creation of more good, secure and well-paid jobs, can help generate the resources needed to invest in high-quality public services; believes that the transition to low carbon industries, including renewable energy, can create economic opportunity and strengthen Scotland's future competitiveness in order to benefit people and communities across Scotland; welcomes continued investment in infrastructure, connectivity and innovation so that more opportunities can be realised in Scotland, and supports action to increase climate resilience and tackle the climate and nature emergencies.

The Presiding Officer has selected the following amendments

**[S7M-01070.1](#) Daniel Johnson: Programme for Government, An Economy Fit for the Future—**As an amendment to motion S7M-01070 in the name of Stephen Flynn (Programme for Government, An Economy Fit for the Future) insert at end “recognises that reforms to the skills system, including interventions to help those who are economically inactive, are required to drive growth and allow individuals to realise their potential; understands that real partnership between public and private sectors will be key to producing better outcomes across the economy, and calls on the Scottish

Government to outline how its plan for regional devolution will operate to give regions the tools they need to grow local economies and increase prosperity in their communities.”

**S7M-01070.4 Malcolm Offord: Programme for Government, An Economy Fit for the Future—**As an amendment to motion S7M-01070 in the name of Stephen Flynn (Programme for Government, An Economy Fit for the Future), leave out from “recognises” to end, and insert “believes, however, that successive policies of the Scottish Government have done the opposite, with high energy costs, high taxes and high welfare preventing economic growth; recognises that creating good, secure and well-paid jobs is vital for Scots to be able to build their own healthy and prosperous lives and that these can only be created with economic growth; believes that if Scotland wants real economic growth, it needs cheap, abundant, reliable energy, which is best delivered by maximising oil and gas over the medium-term, and transitioning to nuclear power over the long-term, with renewables playing a complementary role rather than a dominant one.”

**S7M-01070.2 Patrick Harvie: Programme for Government, An Economy Fit for the Future—**As an amendment to motion S7M-01070 in the name of Stephen Flynn (Programme for Government, An Economy Fit for the Future), leave out from first “; welcomes” to end and insert “and to raise living standards, invest in high-quality public services, increase climate resilience and tackle the climate and nature emergencies; further notes the Prime Minister’s stated intention to develop a new economic model and his criticism of four decades of neoliberalism; believes that significant changes to both UK and Scottish policy will be needed to turn this ambition into reality; calls on both governments to develop long-term strategies to expand public and community ownership in the economy with an immediate focus on municipal bus services, public stakes in renewable energy and mechanisms for stock transfer from the private rented sector to social landlords; urges the UK Government to devolve to Scotland the power to improve working conditions and union rights; calls on both governments to review their regulatory frameworks to ensure that public interest tests have primacy and that growth duties on regulators never impinge on their regulatory purpose, and believes that tax systems at local, Scottish and UK levels must all be used to dramatically cut inequality as well as to raise sufficient revenue to invest in rebuilding public services.”

**S7M-01070.3 Rachael Hamilton: Programme for Government, An Economy Fit for the Future—**As an amendment to motion S7M-01070 in the name of Stephen Flynn (Programme for Government, An Economy Fit for the Future), leave out from the first “welcomes” to end and insert “notes that, after almost two decades of Scottish National Party administration, Scotland continues to suffer from weak growth and an increasingly uncompetitive tax environment; further notes that the SNP promised to build an economy fit for the future eight years ago, yet now acknowledges that economic growth has been too low for too long; recognises the Scottish Fiscal Commission’s and the Auditor General’s concerns about the significant fiscal pressures facing Scotland and the weakness of its business base; considers that further reviews, consultations and interventions such as statutory food price controls risk adding costs and uncertainty rather than removing barriers to growth; regrets that the Programme for Government does too little to unlock the potential of Scotland’s rural industries or address the infrastructure constraints facing rural and island communities, and calls on the Scottish Government to cut the burden on workers and businesses and to pursue a genuinely pro-growth agenda that delivers for Scotland’s urban and rural economies.”

**S7M-01070.5 Liam McArthur: Programme for Government, An Economy Fit for the Future—**As an amendment to motion S7M-01070 in the name of Stephen Flynn (Programme for Government, An Economy Fit for the Future), insert at end “; recognises that work to ensure Scotland has a strong and sustainable economy must address high levels of economic inactivity, an inefficient planning system and the impact of rising business rates; recalls the £178 million of additional rates relief, secured by the Scottish Liberal Democrats in the 2026-27 Budget, while acknowledging that businesses are still feeling the effects of the 2026 rates revaluation with changes required to ensure revaluations don’t produce unfair bills that threaten otherwise viable businesses; believes that island and rural

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|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Today's Business<br><i>Gnothaichean an-diugh</i> | Future Business<br><i>Gnothaichean ri teachd</i> | Motions & Questions<br><i>Glusadan agus Ceistean</i> | Legislation<br><i>Reachdas</i> | Other<br><i>Eile</i> |
| Chamber   Seòmar                                 |                                                  |                                                      |                                |                      |

businesses play a key role in helping Scotland's economy to grow and that those businesses rely on good transport connections to help move supplies, products and staff; acknowledges that where cuts are made to lifeline flights or where there is consistent disruption to ferry services, the viability of these businesses can be adversely affected, and calls for the Island Resilience Fund to offer more funding, and sooner, to both island businesses and the coastal communities that have been consistently excluded from the scheme."

**followed by** Committee Announcements

**followed by** Business Motions

**followed by** Parliamentary Bureau Motions

**[S7M-01097](#) Jamie Hepburn: Committee Membership** —That the Parliament agrees that—

Ben Macpherson be appointed to replace Alyn Smith as a member of the Criminal Justice Committee

Steven Bonnar be appointed to replace David Linden as a member of the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee.

**[S7M-01098](#) Jamie Hepburn: Substitution on Committees**—That the Parliament agrees that Ben Macpherson be appointed to replace Steven Bonnar as the Scottish National Party substitute on the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee.

**5:30 pm** Decision Time

**followed by** Members' Business: Scottish Fire and Rescue Service's Service Delivery Review

**[S7M-00707](#) Katy Clark: Scottish Fire and Rescue Service's Service Delivery Review**—That the Parliament expresses its dismay at the decision taken by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Board to proceed with service changes outlined in its Service Delivery Review, despite what it believes has been significant public opposition, including in the West Scotland region; considers that these service changes will result in station closures, the withdrawal of fire appliances, reduced fire cover and increased response times; understands that there has already been a loss of 1,250 jobs and an around £74 million per year reduction in real-terms funding of the SFRS since 2012-13, and notes the calls for increased and sustained investment in the SFRS to ensure that it can keep the public safe, improve response times and respond to challenges, such as the reported rising number of wildfires.

## Committee Meetings

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

### Education and Gaelic Committee 2nd Meeting, 2026

The Committee will meet at 8:45AM in Committee Room 1

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take item 3 in private and whether to take consideration of its work programme in private at future meetings.
2. **Programme for Government:** The Committee will take evidence from—  
Màiri McAllan, Cabinet Secretary for Education, Culture and Gaelic, Clare Hicks, Director of Education, Andrew Watson, Director for Children and Families, Adam Reid, Deputy Director for Skills, and Douglas Ansdell, Head of Gaelic and Scots, Scottish Government.
3. **Work programme:** The Committee will consider its work programme.

### Economy, Tourism and Energy Committee 3rd Meeting, 2026

The Committee will meet at 9:30AM in Committee Room 2

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take item 3 in private.
2. **AI and its Impact on Scotland's Economy:** The Committee will take evidence from—  
Heather Thomson, Chief Executive Officer, The Data Lab;  
Rich Wilson, CEO, Giggled.ai;  
Sandy Begbie, Chief Executive, Scottish Financial Enterprise;  
Michael Rovatsos, Professor of Artificial Intelligence, University of Edinburgh.
3. **Pre-Budget scrutiny – approach:** The Committee will consider its approach to scrutiny preceding the Scottish Government's Budget 2027-28.

### Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee 3rd Meeting, 2026

The Committee will meet at 9:30AM in Committee Room 6

1. **Decisions on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take items 4, 5 and 6 in private.
2. **Scottish Government Priorities regarding intergovernmental relations - evidence:** The Committee will take evidence from—  
Jenny Gilruth, Deputy First Minister and Chris Mackie, Deputy Director Constitution and UK Relations, Scottish Government.

3. **Scottish Government Priorities regarding culture – evidence:** The Committee will take evidence from—  
Màiri McAllan, Cabinet Secretary for Education, Culture and Gaelic, Richard Walsh, Team Leader, Culture and Historic Environment Division, and Jamie MacDougall, Deputy Director, Culture and Historic Environment, Scottish Government.
4. **Scottish Government Priorities – evidence review:** The Committee will review the evidence heard from Scottish Ministers at its meetings on 1 September and 8 September 2026.
5. **Pre-Budget scrutiny – approach:** The Committee will consider its approach to scrutiny preceding the Scottish Government's Budget 2027-28.
6. **Work programme:** The Committee will consider its work programme.

### Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee 3rd Meeting, 2026

The Committee will meet at 10:00AM in Committee Room 4

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take item 5 in private.
2. **Draft instrument subject to approval:** The Committee will consider [the draft Energy Performance of Buildings \(Scotland\) Amendment Regulations 2026](#).
3. **Instrument subject to annulment:** The Committee will consider [the Personal Injuries \(NHS Charges\) \(Amounts\) \(Scotland\) Amendment Regulations 2026 \(SSI 2026/245\)](#).
4. **Instrument not subject to parliamentary procedure:** The Committee will consider [the Act of Sederunt \(Ordinary Cause Rules 1993 Amendment\) \(Judgments\) 2026 \(SSI 2026/246\)](#).
5. **Commercial Payments Bill (UK Parliament legislation) – delegated powers:** The Committee will consider the powers to make subordinate legislation within devolved competence in the Bill, with reference to LCM-S7-5 and LCM-S7-5a.

## Contacts for Further Information

**All telephone numbers** 0131 348 XXXX

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

|                                                             |      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| General Enquiries                                           | 5000 |
| Chamber Desk (Motions and Questions)                        | 5199 |
| Parliamentary Business Team (Chamber, Parliamentary Bureau) | 5180 |
| Legislation Team                                            | 5277 |
| Non-Government Bills Unit (NGBU)                            | 6124 |

**Committee web sites at:** <https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/committees>

**MSP Details at:** <https://www.parliament.scot/msps/current-and-previous-msps>

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