The Committee will meet at 10.00 am in the Mary Fairfax Somerville Room (CR2).

1. **Decision on taking business in private**: The Committee will decide whether to take items 3 and 4 in private.

2. **Scottish Government Digital Strategy**: The Committee will take evidence from—
   
   Fergus Ewing, Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity, Alan Johnston, Head of Connectivity, Economy & Data Division, and Robbie McGhee, Head of Digital Connectivity Policy, Scottish Government.

3. **Work programme**: The Committee will consider its work programme.

4. **Aquaculture Inquiry**: The Committee will consider its approach to the inquiry.

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The papers for this meeting are as follows—

**Agenda Item 2**
Cover note  
PRIVATE PAPER  
REC/S5/18/4/1

**Agenda Item 3**
PRIVATE PAPER  
REC/S5/18/4/2 (P)

**Agenda Item 4**
PRIVATE PAPER  
REC/S5/18/4/3 (P)

PRIVATE PAPER  
REC/S5/18/4/4 (P)
Background

1. The Committee will take evidence from Fergus Ewing, the Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity, on its Digital Strategy and the progress of the Scottish Government’s broadband infrastructure programmes. The Committee’s last update on this topic from the Cabinet Secretary was on 3 May 2017.

Scottish Government digital strategy

2. On 22 March 2017, the Scottish Government published its latest digital strategy, Realising Scotland’s full potential in a digital world: a digital strategy for Scotland. The strategy restates the Scottish Government’s latest commitment to extend superfast broadband access to all by 2021, while encouraging the growth of ultrafast services.


4. The strategy covers a range of policy areas. For example, the promotion of the digital economy; public service reform; digital skills, preparing our young people for future work; tackling inequalities; and empowering communities. The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution has overall responsibility for Scotland’s digital strategy. However, the cross-cutting policy nature of the digital agenda is reflected in the distribution of Cabinet Secretary and related Ministerial responsibilities. In particular:

- Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills – cyber security and digital skills
- Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity – improving connectivity across Scotland
- Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs - digital participation
- Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work – promoting Scotland’s digital economy