Official Report
Aithisg Oifigeil

Public Service Reform Committee

Comataidh Ath-leasachadh nan Seirbheisean Poblach

Thursday 18 June 2026

Session 7

The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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Thursday 18 June 2026

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PUBLIC SERVICE REFORM COMMITTEE
1st Meeting 2026, Session 7

CONVENER

*Bob Doris (Glasgow Kelvin and Maryhill) (SNP)

DEPUTY CONVENER

*Michelle Campbell (Renfrewshire North and Cardonald) (SNP)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Max Bannerman (Highlands and Islands) (Reform)
*Joe Fagan (South Scotland) (Lab)
*Murdo Fraser (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Con)
*Alex Kerr (Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse) (SNP)
*Lorna Slater (Edinburgh Central) (Green)

*attended

LOCATION

The Robert Burns Room (CR1)

Scottish Parliament

Public Service Reform Committee

Thursday 18 June 2026

[The Convener opened the meeting at 10:01]

Interests

The Convener (Bob Doris): Good morning, everyone, and welcome to the first meeting of the Public Service Reform Committee.

The first item of business is for each member of the committee to declare any relevant interests, in accordance with section 3 of the code of conduct. I will begin, and I will then go to each member in turn.

I draw my entry in the register of members' interests to the attention of members of the public, but I have nothing in particular that I need to declare in relation to the committee.

Michelle Campbell (Renfrewshire North and Cardonald) (SNP): I draw members' attention to my interests. I am a nurse, and I work for NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde in a casual capacity, just to maintain my registration. Also, I have a dual mandate: I am a councillor on Renfrewshire Council.

Max Bannerman (Highlands and Islands) (Reform): I have no registrable interests to declare.

Joe Fagan (South Scotland) (Lab): I am a councillor on South Lanarkshire Council.

Murdo Fraser (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Con): I am a member of the Law Society of Scotland, although I am not currently practising. Beyond that, I do not believe that I have other registrable interests relevant to the committee.

Alex Kerr (Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse) (SNP): I am a councillor on Glasgow City Council.

Lorna Slater (Edinburgh Central) (Green): I draw members' attention to the "Voluntary" section of my entry in the register of interests: my husband works for Heriot-Watt University, and I am the chair of the friends of Holyrood park, which is a local community group. That is a voluntary position, although the group may apply for some grant funding from time to time.

The Convener: That is us all legal now, as they say. We have declared our interests. Thank you, everyone, for doing that. I look forward to working with you all over the course of the session.

Deputy Convener

10:02

The Convener: Agenda item 2 is to choose our deputy convener. As set out in motion S7M-00269, which was agreed to on 4 June 2026, the Parliament has agreed that only members of the Scottish National Party are eligible for nomination as deputy convener. I invite a member of that party to nominate one of its members for the post.

Alex Kerr: I nominate Michelle Campbell.

Michelle Campbell was chosen as deputy convener.

The Convener: Congratulations, Michelle.

Decision on Taking Business in Private

10:03

The Convener: We now move to agenda item 3, which is a decision on whether to take business in private. We are asked to decide whether to take item 4, on the committee's work programme, in private, and to decide whether our consideration of our work programme should also be taken in private at a subsequent meeting.

For the benefit of those watching and new members of the committee, although committees normally meet in public, under rules 12.3.4 and 12.3.5 of standing orders, they can agree to take items in private where appropriate. Work programme discussions are typically taken in private. That is because they involve planning future business and discussing possible witnesses or approaches, and it could be more effective for that to be done in private. Decisions taken in private will be recorded in the committee's minutes.

With those caveats, I ask members whether they agree to take item 4 in private.

Members *indicated agreement*.

The Convener: Do members also agree that consideration of our work programme should be taken in private at our next meeting?

Members *indicated agreement*.

The Convener: Before we move into private, I put on record the committee's thanks to the Finance and Public Administration Committee in session 6 for its legacy report in relation to public service reform. More generally, I thank that committee for its excellent wider work in session 6.

With that on the record, we will now move to the private part of our meeting.

10:04

Meeting continued in private until 11:17.

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