Official Report
Aithisg Oifigeil

Rural Affairs Committee

Comataidh nan Cùisean Dùthchail

Wednesday 24 June 2026

Session 7

The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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Wednesday 24 June 2026

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RURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
1st Meeting 2026, Session 7

CONVENER

*Mark Ruskell (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Green)

DEPUTY CONVENER

*Andrew Baxter (Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch) (LD)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Dawn Black (Angus North and Mearns) (SNP)
*Finlay Carson (Galloway and West Dumfries) (Con)
*Jamie Langan (South Scotland) (Reform)
*Laura Mitchell (Moray) (SNP)
Emma Roddick (Inverness and Nairn) (SNP)

*attended

LOCATION

The James Clerk Maxwell Room (CR4)

Scottish Parliament

Rural Affairs Committee

Wednesday 24 June 2026

[The Convener opened the meeting at 09:30]

Interests

The Convener (Mark Ruskell): Good morning and welcome to the first meeting in session 7 of the Rural Affairs Committee. We have received apologies from Emma Roddick.

Our first item of business this morning is a declaration of members' interests. As this is the committee's first meeting, I invite each member to declare any interests that are relevant to the remit of the committee. That applies regardless of whether such an interest is relevant to today's business, and it is in addition to the ordinary requirement to declare interests that are relevant to specific items of business. A declaration can be brief, but it should be sufficiently informative for a listener to understand the nature of the interest. It is not enough to simply refer to the register of members' interests.

I will start by declaring that I am an honorary associate member of the British Veterinary Association.

Andrew Baxter (Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch) (LD): I declare that I am a sitting member on Highland Council.

Dawn Black (Angus North and Mearns) (SNP): I declare that I am a sitting councillor on Aberdeenshire Council.

Finlay Carson (Galloway and West Dumfries) (Con): I declare that I am also an honorary associate member of the British Veterinary Association.

The Convener: You are in good company.

Laura Mitchell (Moray) (SNP): I have no interests to declare.

Jamie Langan (South Scotland) (Reform): Likewise, my declaration is straightforward: I have no interests to declare.

Deputy Convener

09:31

The Convener: Agenda item 2 is the choosing of a deputy convener. On 4 June, the Parliament agreed to motion S7M-00269, which states that only members of the Scottish Liberal Democrats are eligible to be chosen as the deputy convener of the committee. On that basis, Andrew Baxter is the only member of the committee who is eligible for the position. I invite a member to nominate Andrew as deputy convener.

Dawn Black: I nominate Andrew Baxter as deputy convener of the committee.

Andrew Baxter was chosen as deputy convener.

The Convener: I congratulate Andrew on his appointment.

Decision on Taking Business in Private

09:32

The Convener: Agenda item 3 is a decision on taking agenda item 4, which is consideration of the committee's work programme, in private. The committee is asked to take that item in private because it involves planning future business and discussing approaches and potential witnesses. Are we agreed to take item 4 in private?

Members *indicated agreement.*

The Convener: We will now move into private. I thank the folks who joined us online today.

09:32

Meeting continued in private until 10:27.

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