Official Report
Aithisg Oifigeil

Social Justice, Housing and Local Government Committee

Comataidh a’ Cheartais Shòisealta, Taigheadas agus Riaghaltas Ionadail

Wednesday 24 June 2026

Session 7

The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

© Parliamentary copyright. Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body

Information on the Scottish Parliament's copyright policy can be found on the website—
www.parliament.scot or by contacting Public Information on 0131 348 5000

Wednesday 24 June 2026

CONTENTS

	Col.
INTERESTS	1
DEPUTY CONVENER	3
DECISION ON TAKING BUSINESS IN PRIVATE	4

SOCIAL JUSTICE, HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
1st Meeting 2026, Session 7

CONVENER

*Craig Hoy (Dumfriesshire) (Con)

DEPUTY CONVENER

*Thomas Kerr (Glasgow) (Reform)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Steven Bonnar (Uddingston and Bellshill) (SNP)
*Gary Bouse (Falkirk West) (SNP)
*Kate Campbell (Edinburgh Eastern, Musselburgh and Tranent) (SNP)
*Mark Griffin (Central Scot and Lothians West) (Lab)
*Morven-May MacCallum (Highlands and Islands) (LD)

*attended

LOCATION

The Robert Burns Room (CR1)

Scottish Parliament

Social Justice, Housing and Local Government Committee

Wednesday 24 June 2026

[The Convener opened the meeting at 10:00]

Interests

The Convener (Craig Hoy): Good morning, and welcome to the first meeting of the Social Justice, Housing and Local Government Committee in the seventh session of the Scottish Parliament. I take this opportunity to welcome all our members. I look forward to working with you, the clerking team and the witnesses who appear before us during this session of Parliament.

Agenda item 1 in this first meeting is a declaration of interests. This is an opportunity for members to declare any interests that are relevant to the work of the committee in accordance with section 3 of the code of conduct. Background information in relation to that is available in the committee papers, which are on the website and have been circulated to members. In alphabetical order, I will invite members to declare any interests or to state whether they have any relevant interests to declare.

I will go first, by stating that I have no relevant interests to declare.

Steven Bonnar (Uddingston and Bellshill) (SNP): I have no relevant interests.

Gary Bouse (Falkirk West) (SNP): I have a number of interests. I am a sitting councillor on Falkirk Council. For five years, I was resources portfolio holder, which is on finance. For the past four years, I have been housing portfolio holder. Also, I have just completed my employment with a company as a CSRT—certified surveyor in remedial treatments—and a certified surveyor in structural waterproofing. I am very knowledgeable on Awaab's law and various other things relating to houses. I have worked in the property industry for more than 30 years.

The Convener: You are obviously on the right committee.

Gary Bouse: No—I am on the wrong one.

Kate Campbell (Edinburgh Eastern, Musselburgh and Tranent) (SNP): I resigned as a councillor on 4 June. Until then, I was in local government for nine years. In my nine years as a councillor, I sat on a number of arm's-length organisations of the council. I had a meeting with the standards clerks, and was advised to put all of those on the register of interests under the voluntary category, because none of the posts was remunerated and all of them were in my role as a councillor. The standards clerks have come back to say that I can remove all of them, but I am going to leave them on for transparency.

However, there is a question mark around a limited liability partnership, Edinburgh Living, which is a development company with the council that delivers market and mid-market homes. I do not know whether I need to declare that yet, as I am waiting for full guidance from the standards clerks. I will declare it for now, but it might come off my declaration in future.

Mark Griffin (Central Scot and Lothians West) (Lab): I have no relevant interests to declare.

Morven-May MacCallum (Highlands and Islands) (LD): I am a councillor with Highland Council.

Thomas Kerr (Glasgow) (Reform): I am still a sitting councillor in Glasgow City Council. For full transparency, I also sit on the licensing board of that council.

The Convener: Thank you very much.

Deputy Convener

10:03

The Convener: Agenda item 2 is the selection of a deputy convener. I refer members to paper 2, which provides background information relating to the process. The Parliament has agreed that only members of the Reform UK party are eligible for nomination as deputy convener of the committee, based on discussions between the parties and on the d'Hondt formula for election to this Parliament.

I understand that Thomas Kerr is the party's nominee for the post. Can you confirm that, Mr Kerr?

Thomas Kerr: Yes.

Thomas Kerr was chosen as deputy convener.

The Convener: Congratulations, Thomas.

Decision on Taking Business in Private

10:03

The Convener: The third item on the agenda is to decide whether to take item 4 in private. Item 4 is consideration of our work programme. Do members agree to take that in private?

Members *indicated agreement*.

The Convener: With that, I move us from the first public session of the committee into private.

10:04

Meeting continued in private until 10:58.

This is the final edition of the Official Report of this meeting. It is part of the Scottish Parliament Official Report archive and has been sent for legal deposit.

Published in Edinburgh by the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body, the Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

All documents are available on
the Scottish Parliament website at:

www.parliament.scot

Information on non-endorsed print suppliers
is available here:

www.parliament.scot/documents

For information on the Scottish Parliament contact
Public Information on:

Telephone: 0131 348 5000
Textphone: 0800 092 7100
Email: sp.info@parliament.scot



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba