

Public Audit Committee
Thursday 25 June 2026
1st Meeting, 2026 (Session 7)

Legacy report

Purpose of paper

1. This paper invites the Committee to note the Session 6 Public Audit Committee's Legacy Report.

Legacy Reports

2. At the end of a Parliamentary session committees usually publish a Legacy Report to pass on the knowledge and experience they have gathered, both in terms of policy and working practices. The [Session 6 Public Audit Committee's Legacy Report](#) can be found in full online. The recommendations from the report can be found in the **Annexe** to this paper.

Action

3. **The Committee is invited to thank the members of the Session 6 Public Audit Committee for their Legacy Report, to note it for now and to agree to consider the report as part of its work programme discussion.**

Clerks to the Committee
June 2026

Annexe: Session 6 Public Audit Committee Legacy Report recommendations

Implementing recommendations

1. The Committee has found it beneficial to receive Audit Scotland's impact monitoring and evaluation reports and recommends that its successor committee continues to receive and take evidence on the reports.

Use of progress reports

2. The Committee also recommends that its successor committee uses the option set out in the Scottish Public Finance Manual, to seek progress reports on the implementation of recommendations made in its own reports.

Key audit themes

Scottish Government support for sponsored bodies

3. The Committee recommends that its successor committee continues to scrutinise the effectiveness of the sponsorship support the Scottish Government provides to public bodies.

Board recruitment

4. The Committee recommends that its successor committee continues to scrutinise the effectiveness and the governance arrangements of the Boards of public bodies.

Data collection

5. The Committee recommends that its successor committee continues to monitor how the Scottish Government ensures it has adequate data to measure how its spending is delivering key policies and the intended outcomes.

Financial and performance reporting

New vessels for the Clyde and Hebrides and Ferguson Marine Port Glasgow (Holdings) Limited

Forensic analysis of funds provided to Ferguson Marine Engineering Limited

6. The Committee remains significantly concerned about the increasing costs to complete the delivery of the two new vessels for the Clyde and Hebrides and the ongoing costs of supporting the yard to develop a long-term future. The Committee welcomes the Auditor General's intention to undertake further work on the total cost of the project on completion of both vessels, and to consider the findings of the forensic examination of the historical account records of Ferguson Marine Engineering Limited.
7. The Committee recommends that its successor continues to pursue and thoroughly examine these matters in the next parliamentary Session.

Historic Environment Scotland

8. The Committee recommends that its successor committee seeks an update from HES when it has completed its independent external review, and from the Scottish Government on changes to the Scottish Public Finance Manual.

Scottish Canals

9. The Committee draws its successor committee's attention to the ongoing issues around the valuation of Scottish Canals' assets to inform scrutiny of future audits when laid before Parliament

Scottish National Investment Bank

10. The Committee draws its successor committee's attention to the statutory review of the Scottish National Investment Bank that is underway.

Scottish Prison Service

11. The Committee welcomes the Auditor General's plans to monitor the progress of the SCCPES Contract, and to consider its request for a value for money assessment and draws this to the attention of its successor committee.

Flooding in communities: Moving towards resilience

12. The successor committee may wish to take an interest in further work relating to flood resilience when the Auditor General next consults with Parliament on his future work programme.

Scottish Public Pensions Agency

13. The Committee considers that the ongoing issues at the Scottish Public Pensions Agency remain a matter of concern and draws its successor committee's attention to the work that has been undertaken to date on this important matter.

Best value in policing: Joint Best Value audit of policing in Scotland

14. The Committee draws its successor committee's attention to the planned work to undertake a review of Police Scotland's Policing Together programme.

Scotland's colleges

15. The Committee recommends that its successor committee continues to regularly and robustly scrutinise the ongoing financial concerns in Scotland's college sector as highlighted by the Auditor General.

NHS in Scotland

16. The Committee recommends that its successor committee continues to scrutinise robustly the ongoing concerns in the NHS in Scotland.

NHS Tayside

17. The Committee draws its successor committee's attention to the serious and long-standing concerns about mental health services at NHS Tayside, which were identified by the Auditor General in his report. The Committee also draws its successor committee's attention to the work that NHS Tayside is currently undertaking and asks it to note that the Auditor General may report again on this matter if he considers it necessary.

Delayed discharges: A symptom of the challenges facing health and social care

18. The Committee draws its successor committee's attention to its work on delayed discharges and to COSLA's commitment to provide a future update on the progress that has been made towards implementing the recommendations in the report.

National Fraud Initiative

19. The Committee believes that the proactive approach the National Fraud Initiative (NFI) exercise provides in the detection and prevention of fraud and error is important given the significant financial pressures faced by the public sector. The Committee recommends that its successor committee continues to scrutinise the NFI and monitor existing mandatory and voluntary participation rates.

Administration of Scottish income tax

20. The Committee draws its successor committee's attention to the update on HMRC's trial of a new process to identify Scottish taxpayers, to support its compliance activity.

Scottish Government Consolidated Accounts

Strategic Commercial Assets Division

21. The Committee recommends that its successor continues to closely monitor the Scottish Government's investments in private commercial companies and ensures that the Scottish Government is transparent around these investments, including continuing to publish Shareholder Authorisations.

Cairngorm funicular railway

22. The Committee recommends that its successor committee considers the Scottish Government's response to its report on the Cairngorm funicular railway and carries out any follow-up scrutiny as required.

Future reporting

23. The Committee welcomed the correspondence from the Auditor General setting out his reasons for not reporting further on a public body. The Committee found it helpful to receive an update on the most recent audit work, and of the reasons for the Auditor General's decision. The Committee recommends that this informative and transparent approach continues in Session 7.

Written authorities

24. The Committee recommends that its successor committee continues to monitor the progress of the Written Authorities.

Updates

Major capital projects

25. The Committee recommends that its successor committee continues to receive updates on Major Capital Project Updates and scrutinises the arrangements for expiring PFI contracts.

Major ICT projects

26. The Committee recommends that its successor committee continues to receive updates on Major ICT projects.

Settlement agreements

27. The Committee recommends that its successor committee continues to receive the annual reports on the use of Settlement Agreements.