

Public Service Reform Committee
Thursday 10 September 2026
4th Meeting, 2026 (Session 7)

Delivering public service reform

Note by the Clerk

1. At its meeting on 18 June 2026, the Committee agreed to hold two 'scene-setting' evidence sessions in September on delivering public service reform. This will be the second such evidence session.

Evidence

2. Today's evidence session is with the Scottish Government, and the Committee will hear from the following panel of witnesses—
 - Ivan McKee, Cabinet Secretary for Public Service Reform, who will be supported by:
 - Gabrielle Cahen, Team Leader for Public Service Reform Strategy and Evidence;
 - Ruth Meyer, Head of Public Service Reform Strategy and Governance Unit; and
 - Simon Mair, Deputy Director for Place Based Service Change and Reform, Scottish Government.
3. Following the introduction of its first [Public Service Reform Strategy](#) in June 2025, and the May 2026 Scottish Election, the Scottish Government appointed, for the first time, a [Cabinet Secretary for Public Service Reform](#) (former Minister for Public Finance, Ivan McKee MSP). This will be the first time the Committee has heard from the Cabinet Secretary.
4. The Scottish Parliament's Information Centre (SPICe) has published a briefing, [Public Service Reform: an overview](#), which gives an overview of contextual changes and policy action in the 15 years since the publication of the Christie Commission's recommendations on public service reform, looking specifically at progress made against the four pillars set out by the Commission - people, partnership, prevention and performance.
5. In advance of this evidence session, the Cabinet Secretary for Public Service Reform [wrote to the Committee on 7 September](#) to outline action that the Scottish Government is taking, including an update on progress on the Public Service Reform Strategy and details of other key documents that will be published in the coming month ahead of a PSR Summit on 30 September.

6. Also of relevance to this session is the Scottish Government's [Programme for Government 2026-31](#), which was published and announced in the Parliament on [Tuesday 1 September 2026](#) and further debated in the Parliament on [Wednesday 2 September](#).

Previous meetings

7. At its previous meeting, on 3 September, the Committee took evidence from witnesses on their views on the Scottish Government's Public Service Reform Strategy¹ and progress towards realisation of the Christie Commission's recommendations²—
- Stephen Boyd, Director, Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) Scotland;
 - Stephen Boyle, Auditor General for Scotland; and
 - Dr Claire MacRae, Senior Lecturer, Public Policy, University of Glasgow.
8. The Official Report has yet to be published but will be available on the Committee's [webpage](#).
9. The evidence gathered at these two sessions may also inform the Committee's ongoing inquiry, [Pre-budget scrutiny 2027-28: how can the Scottish Budget best advance public service reform?](#), on which the Committee will hear evidence in the coming weeks.

Committee Clerking Team September 2026

¹ [Scotland's Public Service Reform Strategy: Delivering for Scotland](#), published on 19 June 2025

² [Christie Commission on the future delivery of public services](#), published on 29 June 2011