

Public Service Reform Committee
Thursday 17 September 2026
5th Meeting, 2026 (Session 7)

Pre-budget scrutiny

Note by the Clerk

1. At its meeting on 3 September 2026, the Committee agreed to hold a series of evidence sessions on its pre-budget scrutiny inquiry on how the 2027-28 Scottish Budget can best advance public service reform. This will be the first such evidence session.

Background

2. The Committee's pre-budget scrutiny inquiry will consider how the 2027-28 Scottish Budget can support public service reform, including by:
 - removing barriers to progress,
 - promoting preventative approaches, and
 - simplifying the delivery of public services.
3. As part of its pre-budget scrutiny inquiry, the Committee ran a call for views between 1 July and 14 August 2026, which received 143 submissions in total. These submissions can be [viewed on the Committee's webpage](#).

Evidence

4. The Committee will hear evidence from the following two panels of witnesses—

Panel 1

- Victoria Carson, Engagement and Influence Director, [The Wise Group](#);
- Jayne Jones, Chief Executive, [Scottish Food Commission](#);
- David Phillips, Head of Devolved and Local Government Finance, [Institute for Fiscal Studies](#); and
- Dr Spencer Thompson, Senior Knowledge Exchange Fellow, [Scottish Health Equity Research Unit \(SHERU\), University of Strathclyde](#).

Panel 2

- Liam Davenport, Industrial Officer, [PCS Union](#);
- Carmen Martinez, Policy and Engagement Lead, [Scottish Women's Budget Group](#); and
- Dr Chris Williams, Vice Chair, [Royal College of General Practitioners Scotland](#).

Future meetings

5. The Committee will hear evidence from two further panels of witnesses at its next meeting on 24 September. It also plans to hear evidence from the Cabinet Secretary for Public Service Reform on its pre-budget scrutiny at its meeting on 1 October.
6. Following the evidence sessions, the Committee will consider a draft report and publish it once agreed in October/November.

Committee Clerking Team
September 2026