

Wednesday 5 February 2025

Business Bulletin

Iris Ghnothaichean

Revised at 2:00pm



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Today's Business

Meeting of the Parliament

2:00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2:00 pm Portfolio Questions: The Presiding Officer has grouped the following questions: Deputy First Minister Responsibilities, Economy and Gaelic – Questions 3 and 4

followed by Ministerial Statement: Implementing the Medication Assisted Treatment Standards

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Addressing Child Poverty Through Education

followed by Urgent Question: Meghan Gallacher: To ask the Scottish Government whether it has any data showing the number of children or parents who were aware that results from the Health and Wellbeing Census could be accessed by third-party researchers.

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Approval of SSIs (if required)

5:10 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business — S6M-16155 Mark Ruskell: Save Local Libraries

Committee Meetings

9:00am Rural Affairs and Islands Committee

9:30am Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee

9:30am Criminal Justice Committee

9:30am Economy and Fair Work Committee

9:30am Education, Children and Young People Committee

9:30am Public Audit Committee

Meeting of the Parliament

2:00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2:00 pm Portfolio Questions: The Presiding Officer has grouped the following questions: Deputy First Minister Responsibilities, Economy and Gaelic – Questions 3 and 4

Deputy First Minister Responsibilities, Economy and Gaelic

- 1. Richard Leonard:** [Not Lodged] ([S6O-04282](#))
- 2. Tim Eagle:** To ask the Scottish Government what steps it will take to monitor the impact of the Visitor Levy (Scotland) Act 2024 on small- and medium-sized businesses in the local authority areas that apply it. ([S6O-04283](#))
- 3. Graham Simpson:** To ask the Scottish Government when it last met with the board of Ferguson Marine and what was discussed. ([S6O-04284](#))
- 4. Edward Mountain:** To ask the Scottish Government what the total monthly running cost of Ferguson Marine is. ([S6O-04285](#))
- 5. Foysoi Choudhury:** To ask the Scottish Government how it is working to increase investment in Scotland's artificial intelligence sector. ([S6O-04286](#))
- 6. Emma Harper:** To ask the Scottish Government whether it has carried out an assessment of the economic impact on Dumfries and Galloway and the Scottish Borders of the South Scotland Enterprise Agency, since its inception in 2019. ([S6O-04287](#))
- 7. Ben Macpherson:** To ask the Scottish Government what discussions the economy secretary has had with ministerial colleagues regarding establishing a standalone postgraduate business school to help create more companies, attract talent and boost innovation. ([S6O-04288](#))
- 8. Sandesh Gulhane:** To ask the Scottish Government what it is doing to support and grow the night-time economy in Glasgow. ([S6O-04289](#))

Finance and Local Government

- 1. Fulton MacGregor:** To ask the Scottish Government what discussions the finance secretary has had with ministerial colleagues regarding infrastructure investment plans for the building of new schools, in light of the recent Audit Scotland report, which noted that further borrowing will be needed to invest in these. ([S6O-04290](#))
- 2. Carol Mochan:** To ask the Scottish Government what it will do to address any difficulties with recruitment and retention in local government due to the reported declining value of pay. ([S6O-04291](#))
- 3. Bob Doris:** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will consider reviewing the planning guidance provided to local authorities relating to issuing a call for ideas/sites when undertaking their statutory requirement to prepare a 10-year local development plan. ([S6O-04292](#))
- 4. Annabelle Ewing:** To ask the Scottish Government what discussions the finance secretary has had with NHS Fife regarding the revised infrastructure investment pipeline. ([S6O-04293](#))
- 5. Craig Hoy:** To ask the Scottish Government what factors it considered when determining not to introduce any new bands or increase the rates of Scottish income tax for the remainder of this parliamentary session. ([S6O-04294](#))
- 6. Jackie Baillie:** [Not Lodged] ([S6O-04295](#))

7. **James Dornan:** [Withdrawn] ([S6O-04296](#))

8. **Alex Rowley:** To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to the Accounts Commission report, *Local government in Scotland: Financial bulletin 2023/24*, which was published on 28 January 2025. ([S6O-04297](#))

followed by Ministerial Statement: Implementing the Medication Assisted Treatment Standards

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Addressing Child Poverty Through Education

[S6M-16330](#) Jenny Gilruth: Addressing Child Poverty Through Education—That the Parliament notes the critical contribution made by education in eradicating child poverty, which is a national mission and the single greatest priority for the Scottish Government; notes recent analysis by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, which highlights that Scotland will see a reduction in child poverty levels in the years ahead due to Scotland-specific policies, such as the Scottish Child Payment; further notes that the Scottish Government has committed to making further progress, and agrees that there is a collective responsibility for every local authority, and educational organisation and body in Scotland, to work together with the Scottish Government to address child poverty; commends Scotland's teachers and schools for their work to close the poverty-related attainment gap, and recognises that progress has been made, and that this programme will require more funding certainty over the longer term; welcomes the further investment in tackling child poverty through education in the draft Scottish Budget for 2025-26, including within schools through the expansion of free school meals, the uprating of the school clothing grant, continued funding for the Scottish Attainment Challenge and investment in Bright Start Breakfasts, as well as the around £1 billion investment in funded early learning and childcare and the £3.5 million investment in new skills pathways for colleges, and agrees that all MSPs across the Parliament have a responsibility to promote the interests of children and young people and to work together to share ideas and innovation to address child poverty through education.

The Presiding Officer has selected the following amendments

[S6M-16330.4](#) Miles Briggs: Addressing Child Poverty Through Education—As an amendment to motion S6M-16330 in the name of Jenny Gilruth (Addressing Child Poverty Through Education), leave out from "welcomes" to end and insert "acknowledges that more than a quarter of children in Scotland live in poverty; recognises that, while investment in tackling child poverty through education is important, it must be accompanied by a focus on improving educational standards; notes that, while the Scottish Government has spent £1 billion on early years and childcare, there remains a significant disparity in the availability of early years provision across Scotland, which risks deepening inequalities and limiting parental employment opportunities, and has long-term consequences for children's development and educational outcomes; further notes with concern that education in Scotland has gone backwards in Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) international rankings; acknowledges that the attainment gap in primary pupils' reading, writing, literacy and numeracy remains similar to pre-COVID-19-pandemic levels and has failed to close; regrets that the pledge to provide universal free school meals for primary pupils has not been fulfilled; expresses concern over the rising level of violence in schools, which negatively impacts both attainment and wellbeing; calls on the Scottish Government to provide greater support for teachers and local authorities to tackle this issue; further calls for a review of policies to improve the identification of and support for care

experienced and young carer pupils in schools, ensuring that they receive the necessary assistance to succeed in education, and believes that the Scottish Government's main priority should be ensuring that every child, no matter their background, has the best start in life."

S6M-16330.3 Pam Duncan-Glancy: Addressing Child Poverty Through Education—As an amendment to motion S6M-16330 in the name of Jenny Gilruth (Addressing Child Poverty Through Education), leave out from ", which is" to end and insert "; commends Scotland's teachers and schools for their work; notes that the poverty-related attainment gap has not improved in P1 and is the widest it has ever been at Higher level; further notes that the Scottish Government's failure to plan for the school workforce has meant that teachers are often overworked and children are unsupported; expresses its disappointment at what it sees as the Scottish National Party's broken promise of rolling out free school meals to all P6 and P7 pupils; believes that education should set young people on the path to opportunities for their future and can help lift people out of poverty; understands that 'Scotland's colleges play a particularly important role in supporting learners from more deprived communities to access learning', as described by Audit Scotland, but that the 'financial health of the sector has deteriorated since 2021-22'; welcomes that 100,000 people in Scotland have already received a pay rise thanks to the UK Labour administration's New Deal for Working People; acknowledges recent analysis by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation on the extent of child poverty in Scotland, which observed deficiencies in the key data used to calculate poverty rates and found that 'we will need to go further to reach the 2030-31 targets', and calls on the Scottish Government to work with the UK Department for Work and Pensions to ensure that accurate data is available for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and other organisations to accurately assess the extent of child poverty in Scotland and the impact of policy interventions on it."

followed by Urgent Question: Meghan Gallacher: To ask the Scottish Government whether it has any data showing the number of children or parents who were aware that results from the Health and Wellbeing Census could be accessed by third-party researchers.

followed by Business Motions

S6M-16340 Jamie Hepburn on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: Business Programme—
That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 18 February 2025

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Ministerial Statement: Community Wealth Building Progress and Future Ambition

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Employer National Insurance Contributions

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 19 February 2025

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands; Health and Social Care

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Protecting the Powers of the Scottish Parliament

followed by Legislative Consent Motion: Renters' Rights Bill - UK Legislation

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Approval of SSIs (if required)

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 20 February 2025

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

followed by Members' Business

2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.30 pm Portfolio Questions: Social Justice

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Scottish Income Tax Rate Resolution 2025-26

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Independent Review of Sentencing and Penal Policy

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 25 February 2025

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Budget (Scotland) (No. 4) Bill

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 26 February 2025

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Constitution, External Affairs and Culture, and Parliamentary Business; Justice and Home Affairs

followed by Scottish Green Party Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Approval of SSIs (if required)

5.10 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 27 February 2025

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

followed by Members' Business

2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.30 pm Portfolio Questions: Education and Skills

followed by Scottish Government Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

(b) that, for the purposes of Portfolio Questions in the week beginning 17 February 2025, in rule 13.7.3, after the word “except” the words “to the extent to which the Presiding Officer considers that the questions are on the same or similar subject matter or” are inserted.

[S6M-16341](#) Jamie Hepburn on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: Stage 1 Timetable—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill at stage 1 be completed by 23 May 2025.

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

[S6M-16342](#) Jamie Hepburn on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: Approval of SSI—That the Parliament agrees that the International Organisations (Immunities and Privileges) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2025 [draft] be approved.

followed by Approval of SSIs (if required)

5:10 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business
Debate on the subject of—

[S6M-16155](#) Mark Ruskell: Save Local Libraries—That the Parliament notes what it sees as the vital role that local libraries play in their communities, acting as central hubs for borrowing, learning, community engagement and sourcing advice and support; believes that the closure of

libraries leaves communities without these vital services, and that this is particularly damaging for rural areas where libraries can be heavily relied on; considers that library closures have a disproportionate impact on vulnerable populations, including children, older residents and people with limited access to digital resources; notes the reported concerns raised by communities around the proposed closure of libraries across Scotland, including the threatened closure of those in the Perth and Kinross Council area; understands that local authorities have a legal obligation to provide public library services; believes that mobile libraries are often not suitable alternatives; considers that library services require adequate public funding to remain viable and have a critical role to play in achieving the Scottish Government's priorities, including eradicating child poverty; believes that a closed library is unlikely to reopen, permanently limiting opportunities for the communities they once served, and notes the calls on the Scottish Government to help protect the future of Scotland's libraries.

Committee Meetings

All meetings take place in the Scottish Parliament, unless otherwise specified.

Rural Affairs and Islands Committee 5th Meeting, 2025

The Committee will meet at 9:00 am in T4.40-CR2 The Fairfax Somerville Room

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take item 3 in private.
2. **Inshore Fisheries Management Improvement Programme:** The Committee will take evidence from—
Stuart Bell, Senior Policy Manager, Helen Downie, Senior Policy Manager, Dr Coby Needle, Chief Fisheries Advisor for Scotland, and Jim Watson, Head of Domestic Fisheries Management, Marine Directorate, Scottish Government.
3. **Inshore Fisheries Management Improvement Programme:** The Committee will consider the evidence it heard earlier in the meeting.
4. **Work programme (in private):** The Committee will consider its work programme.

Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee 2nd Meeting, 2025

The Committee will meet at 9:30 am in T1.40-CR5 The Smith Room

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take items 4 and 5 in private.
2. **Consideration of continued petitions:** The Committee will consider the following continued petitions—
PE2048: Review the FAST stroke awareness campaign. The Committee will take evidence from—
Sophie Bridger, Policy and Campaigns Manager, CHSS
Michael Dickson OBE, Chief Executive, Scottish Ambulance Service
Professor Arshad Majid, University of Sheffield
John Watson, Associate Director, Scotland, Stroke Association
and then from—
Dr Ron Cook, Medical Director, NHS 24
Professor Mary Joan MacLeod, University of Aberdeen
PE1812: Protect Scotland's remaining ancient, native and semi-native woodlands and woodland floors;
PE1979: Establish an independent inquiry and an independent national whistleblowing officer to investigate concerns about the alleged mishandling of child safeguarding enquiries by public bodies;
PE2035: Recognise legal control of generalist predators as a conservation act;
PE2056: Introduce legislation allowing Scottish Ministers to intervene on the hire of public land;
PE2058: Require all dog boarding kennels to install smoke detectors, smoke alarms and sprinkler systems; and
PE2065: Improve and prioritise pedestrian safety.
;
3. **Consideration of new petitions:** The Committee will consider the following new petitions—
PE2121: Run a targeted roadside litter awareness campaign; and

PE2124: Keep private and work place pensions out of divorce.

4. **Consideration of Evidence:** The Committee will consider the evidence it heard earlier under agenda item 2.
5. **Work programme:** The Committee will consider its work programme.

Criminal Justice Committee 5th Meeting, 2025

The Committee will meet at 9:30 am in T4.60-CR6 The Livingstone Room

1. **Criminal Justice Modernisation and Abusive Domestic Behaviour Reviews (Scotland)**
Bill: The Committee will take evidence on the Bill at Stage 1 from—
Fiona Drouet, Founder and CEO, EmilyTest;
Dr Marsha Scott, Chief Executive Officer, Scottish Women's Aid;
and then from—
Katie Brown, Equally Safe Policy Manager, COSLA;
Graeme Simpson, Chief Social Work Officer, Aberdeen City Council, representing
Social Work Scotland;
Dr Emma Fletcher, Director of Public Health, NHS Tayside.
2. **Criminal Justice Modernisation and Abusive Domestic Behaviour Reviews (Scotland)**
Bill (in private): The Committee will consider the evidence it heard earlier under agenda item 1.

Economy and Fair Work Committee 5th Meeting, 2025

The Committee will meet at 9:30 am in T1.60-CR4 The Clerk Maxwell Room

1. **City Region and Regional Growth Deals:** The Committee will take evidence from—
Kate Forbes, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic,
Kate Bryson, Head of East & West of Scotland Growth Deals, Kimberley Daly, Head of
Highlands, Islands, Edinburgh and South of Scotland Growth Deals, and Anne-Marie
Martin, Deputy Director for Regional Economic Development, Scottish Government.
2. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee will take further evidence on the following
instruments:
Moveable Transactions (Scotland) Act 2023 Amendment Regulations 2025 [draft]
Registers of Scotland (Fees and Plain Copies) Miscellaneous Amendments Order 2025
[draft]
Moveable Transactions (Forms) (Scotland) Regulations 2024
Moveable Transactions (Register of Assignations and Register of Statutory Pledges
Rules) (Scotland) Regulations 2024 from—
Ivan McKee, Minister for Public Finance, Camilo Arredondo, Solicitor, Jill Clark, Team
Leader, Private Law Unit, and Rob McConnell, Solicitor, Scottish Government;
David Robertson, Policy Lead, Registers of Scotland.
3. **Subordinate legislation:** Ivan McKee (Minister for Public Finance) to move—
S6M-15910—That the Economy and Fair Work Committee recommends that the
Moveable Transactions (Scotland) Act 2023 Amendment Regulations 2025 be
approved.
4. **Subordinate legislation:** Ivan McKee (Minister for Public Finance) to move—

S6M-15911—That the Economy and Fair Work Committee recommends that the Registers of Scotland (Fees and Plain Copies) Miscellaneous Amendments Order 2025 be approved.

5. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee will consider the following negative instruments—
[Moveable Transactions \(Forms\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2024](#)
[Moveable Transactions \(Register of Assignations and Register of Statutory Pledges Rules\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2024](#)
6. **City Region and Regional Growth Deals (in private):** The Committee will consider the evidence heard earlier under agenda item 1.

Education, Children and Young People Committee 5th Meeting, 2025

The Committee will meet at 9:30 am in TG.40-CR1 The Burns Room

1. **Declaration of interests:** Roz McCall will be invited to declare any relevant interests.
2. **Colleges Regionalisation Inquiry: Post-Inquiry Scrutiny** The Committee will take evidence from—
 Andy Witty, Director of Strategic Policy and Corporate Governance, Colleges Scotland;
 Joanna Campbell, Chair of the College Principals Group and Principal, Dumfries and Galloway College;
 Audrey Cumberland, Principal, Edinburgh College;
 Neil Cowie, Principal, North East Scotland College.
3. **Evidence Session (in private):** The Committee will consider the evidence it heard earlier under agenda item 2.

Public Audit Committee 5th Meeting, 2025

The Committee will meet at 9:30 am in TG.60-CR3 The Fleming Room

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take agenda items 3 and 4 in private.
2. **The 2023/24 audit of Ferguson Marine Port Glasgow (Holdings) Limited:** The Committee will take evidence from—
 David Dishon, Chief Financial Officer and Accountable Officer, Andrew Miller, Chairman, and John Petticrew, Interim Chief Executive Officer, Ferguson Marine (Port Glasgow) Ltd;
 Gregor Irwin, Director General Economy, Colin Cook, Director of Economic Development, and Dermot Rhatigan, Deputy Director, Strategic Commercial Assets Division, Scottish Government.
3. **The 2023/24 audit of Ferguson Marine Port Glasgow (Holdings) Limited:** The Committee will consider the evidence heard at agenda item 2 and take further evidence from—
 Stephen Boyle, Auditor General for Scotland;
 John Boyd, Audit Director, and Dharshi Santhakumaran, Senior Manager, Audit Scotland.
4. **The 2023/24 audit of Ferguson Marine Port Glasgow (Holdings) Limited:** The Committee will consider the evidence heard at agenda items 2 and 3 and agree any further action it wishes to take.

Contacts for Further Information

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Legislation Team	5277
Non-Government Bills Unit (NGBU)	6124

Committee web sites at:

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/committees>

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