

Tuesday 18 February 2025

# Business Bulletin

*Iris Ghnothaichean*

Revised at 1:40pm



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Today's Business

Subject to the Parliament's agreement of S6M-16518, today's business will be as follows:

### Meeting of the Parliament

**2:00 pm** Time for Reflection: Mr Adrian Ferguson, Perth Gospel Hall

**followed by** Parliamentary Bureau Motions

**followed by** Topical Questions

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

**followed by** Ministerial Statement: Securing a Future for Grangemouth

**followed by** Scottish Government Debate: Employer National Insurance Contributions

**followed by** Committee Announcements

**followed by** Business Motions

**followed by** Parliamentary Bureau Motions

**5:15 pm** Decision Time

**followed by** Members' Business — S6M-16282 Beatrice Wishart: Opportunities and Challenges for Scotland's Fishing Sector in 2025

### Committee Meetings

**9:00am** Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee

**9:30am** Finance and Public Administration Committee

**9:30am** Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee

**10:00am** Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee

## Meeting of the Parliament

Subject to the Parliament's agreement of S6M-16518, today's business will be as follows:

**2:00 pm Time for Reflection: Mr Adrian Ferguson, Perth Gospel Hall**

**followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions**

**[S6M-16518](#) Jamie Hepburn on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: Revision to Business Programme**—That the Parliament agrees to the following revisions to the programme of business for—

(a) Tuesday 18 February 2025—

after

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

insert

*followed by* Ministerial Statement: Securing a Future for Grangemouth

delete

5.00 pm Decision Time

and insert

5.15 pm Decision Time

(b) Wednesday 19 February 2025—

after

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

insert

*followed by* Ministerial Statement: The Promise Oversight Board Report 3: Progress and Next Steps Towards Keeping The Promise

(c) Thursday 20 February 2025—

delete

2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.30 pm Portfolio Questions: Social Justice

and insert

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Social Justice

after

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

insert

*followed by* Legislative Consent Motion: Great British Energy Bill - UK Legislation

delete

5.00 pm Decision Time

and insert

5.15 pm Decision Time

The Presiding Officer has selected the following amendment

**S6M-16518.1 Tess White: Revision to Business Programme**—As an amendment to motion S6M-16518 in the name of Jamie Hepburn (Revision to Business Programme), leave out first "5.15 pm Decision Time" and insert—

"*followed by* Ministerial Statement: Public Sector Workers' Access to Single Sex Spaces

5.45 pm Decision Time".

### **followed by Topical Questions**

**1. Jackie Baillie:** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking, in light of reports by the Royal College of Emergency Medicine that the number of people waiting in A&E for over 12 hours is almost 100 times higher than in 2011. ([S6T-02340](#))

**2. Graham Simpson:** To ask the Scottish Government for what reason Scottish Water continues to pay bonuses to its executives, when public sector pay policy reportedly prohibits this. ([S6T-02350](#))

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

### **followed by Ministerial Statement: Securing a Future for Grangemouth**

### **followed by Scottish Government Debate: Employer National Insurance Contributions**

**S6M-16488 Tom Arthur: Employer National Insurance Contributions**—That the Parliament recognises the significant adverse impacts of the UK Government's intended changes to employer national insurance contributions (ENICs) on Scotland's businesses, third sector, public services and wider economy; believes that the impacts are likely to result in higher costs, job losses, increased prices and cause some charities and businesses to close altogether; notes the potential disproportionate impact of the changes on consumer-facing sectors of Scotland's economy, such as retail, tourism and hospitality businesses, organisations providing social care and third sector organisations commissioned to provide public services; agrees with the significant concerns expressed by 50 organisations in Scotland, including COSLA and the STUC, who, along with the Scottish Government, wrote to the UK Government describing the risk to the vital services that they provide due to these additional costs, and calls on the UK Government to reverse this decision and not raise ENICs as planned in April 2025.

The Presiding Officer has selected the following amendments

**[S6M-16488.3](#) Craig Hoy: Employer National Insurance Contributions**—As an amendment to motion S6M-16488 in the name of Tom Arthur (Employer National Insurance Contributions), insert at end “; warns that the increase to ENICs is a tax on jobs that will negatively impact employers and employees; acknowledges that, as a direct consequence of Scottish Government policy, the Scottish public sector is disproportionately exposed to increases in labour costs because the Scottish public sector is proportionately larger than in the rest of the UK and its salary costs impose a heavier burden on taxpayers; considers, therefore, that budget decisions by both the Scottish and UK governments will hurt taxpayers, consumers and workers in Scotland and will negatively impact growth, and supports common-sense Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party proposals for tax cuts to grow Scotland’s economy and give workers and businesses much-needed relief.”

**[S6M-16488.2](#) Daniel Johnson: Employer National Insurance Contributions**—As an amendment to motion S6M-16488 in the name of Tom Arthur (Employer National Insurance Contributions), leave out from "recognises" to end and insert “welcomes the record £5.2 billion of additional funding for Scotland delivered as a result of the UK Government’s Autumn Budget; agrees with the STUC that the additional positive measures that are set out in the draft Scottish Budget 2025-26 are ‘dependent on UK Government funding’; regrets that the fiscal changes called for by the Scottish Government would significantly reduce the level of funding available to Scotland’s public services; understands that the First Minister has publicly advocated for a cut to Scotland’s budget of £636 million; regrets that the Scottish National Party administration’s failure to grow Scotland’s economy has negatively impacted the level of funding available in the Scottish Budget over many years; understands that decisions around the level of staffing in Scotland’s public services are devolved to the Scottish Government, and calls on the Scottish Government to ensure that the record funding delivered by the UK Government reaches the frontline services that need it most.”

**followed by Committee Announcements**

**followed by Business Motions**

**followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions**

**5:15 pm Decision Time**

**followed by Members' Business  
Debate on the subject of—**

**[S6M-16282](#) Beatrice Wishart: Opportunities and Challenges for Scotland’s Fishing Sector in 2025**—That the Parliament commends the hard-working fishermen of island and coastal communities, including in the Shetland Islands constituency; understands that, as published in the most recent Marine Economic Statistics in December 2024, fishing contributed £335 million to Scotland’s economy in 2022, including £83.3 million from Shetland; notes the dangerous nature of the open sea and the at-sea dangers of manmade infrastructure, as well as from other fishing vessels conducting dangerous procedures and manoeuvres; further notes concern in the sector about increasing competition for marine space and the calls to establish designated cable corridors as a means of addressing spatial squeeze and promoting co-operation; recognises the

cultural and economic significance of fishing to Scotland; highlights fish as what it sees as a sustainable, low-carbon source of protein; understands that the Scottish Government has not held a debate on fisheries since 2022, and notes the belief that action to address spatial squeeze in Scotland's seas is in the long-term interests of the fishing sector as well as the wider Scottish economy.

## Committee Meetings

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

### Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee 6th 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 items 5 and 6 in private and whether consideration of the Stage 1 Land Reform (Scotland) Bill report should be taken in private at future meetings.
2. **Land Reform (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee will take evidence on the Bill at Stage 1 from—  
Mairi Gougeon, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands, Andrew Proudfoot, Land Reform Bill Team Leader, Keith White, Lawyer, Fiona Leslie, Agricultural Holdings and Women in Agriculture Team Leader, and Andrew Crawley, Lawyer, Scottish Government.
3. **Appointment of the Chair of Environmental Standards Scotland:** The Committee will take evidence from—  
Dr Richard Dixon, Chair nominee.
4. **UK subordinate legislation:** The Committee will consider a proposal by the Scottish Government to consent to the UK Government legislating in a devolved area as set out in the following UK statutory instrument proposal—  
The Persistent Organic Pollutants (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2025
5. **Land Reform (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee will consider the evidence heard under agenda item 2.
6. **Appointment of the Chair of Environmental Standards Scotland:** The Committee will consider the evidence heard under agenda item 3.

### Finance and Public Administration Committee 6th Meeting, 2025

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

1. **Budget Scrutiny 2025-26:** The Committee will take evidence on the Scottish Government's response to its Budget Scrutiny 2025-26 report from—  
Shona Robison, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government, Jennie Barugh, Director of Fiscal Sustainability and Exchequer Development, Richard McCallum, Director of Public Spending, and Lucy O'Carroll, Director of Tax, Scottish Government.
2. **Budget (Scotland) (No. 4) Bill:** The Committee will consider the Bill at Stage 2.
3. **Proposed Contingent Liability (in private):** The Committee will take evidence from—  
Richard Lochhead, Minister for Business, and Rachael McKechnie, Deputy Director, Major Events, Scottish Government.
4. **Proposed Contingent Liability (in private):** The Committee will consider the evidence heard earlier in the meeting.

### Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee 5th Meeting, 2025

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

1. **Decisions on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take items 3 and 4 in private.
2. **Council Tax Inquiry:** The Committee will take evidence from—  
Sara Cowan, Director, Scottish Women's Budget Group;  
Professor Ken Gibb, Director, UK Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence, and  
Professor David Heald, Emeritus Professor, Adam Smith Business School, University of  
Glasgow;  
Joanne Walker, Technical Officer, Chartered Institute of Taxation (Low Incomes Tax  
Reform Group);  
and then from—  
Emma Congreve, Deputy Director and Principal Knowledge Exchange Fellow, Fraser of  
Allander Institute;  
David Phillips, Associate Director, Institute for Fiscal Studies.
3. **Council Tax Inquiry:** The Committee will consider the evidence heard earlier in the meeting.
4. **Scottish Public Services Ombudsman:** The Committee will consider draft correspondence to the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman.

### Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee 6th Meeting, 2025

The Committee will meet at 10:00 am in T1.40-CR5 The Smith Room

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take items 5 and 6 in private.
2. **Instruments subject to affirmative procedure:** The Committee will consider the following—  
[Public Appointments and Public Bodies etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2003 \(Treatment of Qualifications Scotland as Specified Authority\) Order 2025](#) (SSI 2025/Draft)  
[Budget \(Scotland\) Act 2024 Amendment Regulations 2025](#) (SSI 2025/Draft)  
[Local Government Finance \(Scotland\) Order 2025](#) (SSI 2025/Draft)  
[Tied Pubs \(Miscellaneous Amendment\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2025](#) (SSI 2025/Draft)  
[Social Security \(Up-rating\) \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2025](#) (SSI 2025/Draft)
3. **Instruments subject to negative procedure:** The Committee will consider the following—  
[Scottish Road Works Register \(Prescribed Fees\) Regulations 2025](#) (SSI 2025/18)  
[Non-Domestic Rating \(Valuation of Utilities\) \(Scotland\) Amendment Order 2025](#) (SSI 2025/19)  
[Council Tax Reduction \(Miscellaneous Amendment\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2025](#) (SSI 2025/24)  
[Fees for Scheme Membership and Disclosure Applications \(Scotland\) Regulations 2025](#) (SSI 2025/25)
4. **Instruments not subject to any parliamentary procedure:** The Committee will consider the following—  
[Prisoners \(Early Release\) \(Scotland\) Act 2025 \(Commencement\) Regulations 2025](#) (SSI 2025/17 (C.3))  
[Disclosure \(Scotland\) Act 2020 \(Commencement No. 5, Saving and Transitional Provision\) Regulations 2025](#) (SSI 2025/27 (C.4))
5. **Leases (Automatic Continuation etc.) (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee will consider the delegated powers in this Bill at Stage 1.
6. **Scottish Languages Bill:** The Committee will consider the delegated powers in this Bill after Stage 2.

## Contacts for Further Information

All telephone numbers 0131 348 XXXX

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Chamber Desk (Motions and Questions)	5199
Parliamentary Business Team (Chamber, Parliamentary Bureau)	5187
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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