

Scottish Parliament Fact sheet

Scottish Parliament Committees: Current List of Members

10 August 2010

Parliamentary Business: Current Series

This Fact Sheet lists the remit and membership of all current committees in the Scottish Parliament. It is arranged alphabetically by the name of the committee. It also lists the membership of the Conveners' Group. The Conveners' Group provides an informal forum where Committee Conveners can meet to discuss matters of mutual interest and to facilitate liaison between the Committees, the Parliamentary Bureau and the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body. The Group is chaired by one of the Deputy Presiding Officers.

At the end of the fact sheet there is also a table providing the total number of committees during Session 3.

Abbreviations Used	Party/ Independent
Con	Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party
Green	Scottish Green Party
Ind	Independent
Lab	Scottish Labour
LD	Scottish Liberal Democrats
SNP	Scottish National Party
Abbreviations Used	Committee Type
AH	Ad Hoc Committee
M	Mandatory Committee
S	Subject Committee



Committees play a central part in the work of the Parliament – taking evidence from witnesses, scrutinising legislation and conducting inquiries. Most committees meet weekly or fortnightly, usually on Tuesdays or on Wednesday mornings, in one of the Scottish Parliament's committee rooms – or in locations around Scotland. Each committee has a Convener and a Deputy Convener. Conveners convene and chair meetings but are not required to be impartial. Deputy Conveners can also chair meetings and cover for the Convener.

Under Rule 6.3A of the Standing Orders of the Scottish Parliament, a political party represented by five or more Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs) may nominate a member of that party to be a substitute (referred to as a "committee substitute") for the members of that party on a particular committee. These committee substitutes must be approved by the Parliament on a motion of the Parliamentary Bureau.

You can find out more about the work of committees at:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/committees/index.htm>

List of Committees

Conveners' Group

Remit: The Group handles a range of matters, for example:

- (a) approval of travel by Committees or Committee members
- (b) approval of meetings of Committees outside Edinburgh
- (c) consideration of the biannual programme of Committee meetings
- (d) endorsement of funding for civic participation events and external research
- (e) making recommendations to the Bureau on Committee business to be scheduled in the Chamber.

The members of this group are Committee Conveners of the mandatory and subject committees.

Convener: Trish Godman (Lab)

Members:

Bill Aitken (Con)

Alasdair Morgan (SNP)

Rhona Brankin (Lab)

Irene Oldfather (Lab)

Christine Grahame (SNP)

Gil Paterson (SNP)

Patrick Harvie (Green)

Iain Smith (LD)

Hugh Henry (Lab)

Jamie Stone (LD)

Duncan McNeil (Lab)

Andrew Welsh (SNP)

Margaret Mitchell (Con)

Maureen Watt (SNP)

Karen Whitefield (Lab)

Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee (S)

Remit: To consider and report on the Scottish economy, enterprise, energy, tourism and all other matters falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth apart from those covered by the remits of the Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change and the Local Government and Communities Committees.

Convener: Iain Smith (LD)

Deputy Convener: Rob Gibson (SNP)

Members:

Wendy Alexander (Lab)

Lewis Macdonald (Lab)

Gavin Brown (Con)

Stuart McMillan (SNP)

Christopher Harvie (SNP)

Iain Smith (LD)

Marilyn Livingstone (Lab)

Committee Substitutes:

Nigel Don (SNP)

Jeremy Purvis (LD)

Rob Gibson (SNP)

David Whitton (Lab)

Alex Johnstone (Con)

Education, Lifelong Learning and Culture Committee (S)

Remit: To consider and report on (a) further and higher education, lifelong learning, schools, pre-school care, skills and other matters falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning and (b) matters relating to culture and the arts falling within the responsibility of the Minister for Culture and External Affairs.

(As agreed by resolution of the Parliament on 9 December 2009)

Convener: Karen Whitefield (Lab)

Deputy Convener: Kenneth Gibson (SNP)

Members:

Alasdair Allan (SNP)

Christina McKelvie (SNP)

Claire Baker (Lab)

Elizabeth Smith (Con)

Ken Macintosh (Lab)

Margaret Smith (LD)

Committee Substitutes:

Ted Brocklebank (Con)

Cathy Peattie (Lab)

Hugh O'Donnell (LD)

Dave Thompson (SNP)

End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill Committee (AH)

Remit: To consider and report to the Parliament on the End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill;

Duration: Until the Bill has received Royal Assent, falls or is withdrawn;

Number of members: 6;

(As agreed by resolution of the Parliament on 10 February 2010).

Convener: Ross Finnie (LD)

Deputy Convener: Ian McKee (SNP)

Members:

Helen Eadie (Lab)

Nanette Milne (Con)

Michael Matheson (SNP)

Cathy Peattie (Lab)

Equal Opportunities Committee (M)

Remit: To consider and report on matters relating to equal opportunities and upon the observance of equal opportunities within the Parliament.

Convener: Margaret Mitchell (Con)

Deputy Convener: Marlyn Glen (Lab)

Members:

Malcolm Chisholm (Lab)

Stuart McMillan (SNP)

Bill Kidd (SNP)

Hugh O' Donnell (LD)

Christina McKelvie (SNP)

Elaine Smith (Lab)

Committee Substitutes:

Rhoda Grant (Lab)

Margaret Smith (LD)

Mary Scanlon (Con)

Bill Wilson (SNP)

European and External Relations Committee (M)

Remit: To consider and report on-

- (a) proposals for European Communities legislation;
- (b) the implementation of European Communities legislation;
- (c) any European Communities or European Union issue;
- (d) the development and implementation of the Scottish Administration's links with countries and territories outside Scotland, the European Communities (and their institutions) and other international organisations; and
- (e) co-ordination of the international activities of the Scottish Administration.

Convener: Irene Oldfather (Lab)

Deputy Convener: *vacant*

Members:

Ted Brocklebank (Con)

Patricia Ferguson (Lab)

Jamie Hepburn (SNP)

Jim Hume (LD)

Frank McAveety (Lab)

Sandra White (SNP)

Bill Wilson (SNP)

Committee Substitutes:

Jackson Carlaw (Con)

Ken Macintosh (Lab)

Gil Paterson (SNP)

Iain Smith (LD)

Finance Committee (M)

Remit: To consider and report on-

- (a) any report or other document laid before the Parliament by members of the Scottish Executive containing proposals for, or budgets of, public expenditure or proposals for the making of a tax-varying resolution, taking into account any report or recommendations concerning such documents made to them by any other committee with power to consider such documents or any part of them;
- (b) any report made by a committee setting out proposals concerning public expenditure;
- (c) Budget Bills; and
- (d) any other matter relating to or affecting the expenditure of the Scottish Administration or other expenditure payable out of the Scottish Consolidated Fund.

Convener: Andrew Welsh (SNP)

Deputy Convener: Tom McCabe (Lab)

Members:

Derek Brownlee (Con)

Malcolm Chisholm (Lab)

Joe FitzPatrick (SNP)

Jeremy Purvis (LD)

Linda Fabiani (SNP)

David Whitton (Lab)

Committee Substitutes:

Gavin Brown (Con)

Stewart Maxwell (SNP)

Lewis Macdonald (Lab)

Liam McArthur (LD)

Forth Crossing Bill Committee (AH)

Remit: To consider and report to the Parliament on the Forth Crossing Bill;

Duration: Until the Bill has received Royal Assent, falls or is withdrawn;

Convenership: The Convener will be a member of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party and the Deputy Convener will be a member of the Scottish Liberal Democrat Party;

As agreed by resolution of the Parliament on 27 January 2010.

Convener: Jackson Carlaw (Con)

Deputy Convener: Hugh O'Donnell (LD)

Members:

Joe FitzPatrick (SNP)

David Stewart (Lab)

Health and Sport Committee (S)

Remit: To consider and report on (a) health policy and the NHS in Scotland and other matters falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing; and (b) matters relating to sport falling within the responsibility of the Minister for Public Health and Sport.

Convener: Christine Grahame (SNP)

Deputy Convener: Ross Finnie (LD)

Members:

Helen Eadie (Lab)

Ian McKee (SNP)

Rhoda Grant (Lab)

Mary Scanlon (Con)

Michael Matheson (SNP)

Richard Simpson (Lab)

Committee Substitutes:

Joe FitzPatrick (SNP)
Frank McAveety (Lab)

Nanette Milne (Con)
Jamie Stone (LD)

Justice Committee (S)

Remit: To consider and report on (a) the administration of criminal and civil justice, community safety, and other matters falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Justice and (b) the functions of the Lord Advocate, other than as head of the systems of criminal prosecution and investigation of deaths in Scotland.

Convener: Bill Aitken (Con)

Deputy Convener: Bill Butler (Lab)

Members:

Robert Brown (LD)

Cathie Craigie (Lab)

Nigel Don (SNP)

James Kelly (Lab)

Stewart Maxwell (SNP)

Dave Thompson (SNP)

Committee Substitutes:

John Lamont (Con)

Mike Pringle (LD)

Richard Simpson (Lab)

Maureen Watt (SNP)

Local Government and Communities Committee (S)

Remit: To consider and report on (a) the financing and delivery of local government and local services and planning; and (b) housing, regeneration, anti-poverty measures and other matters falling within the responsibility of the Minister for Housing and Communities.

Convener: Duncan McNeil (Lab)

Deputy Convener: Bob Doris (SNP)

Members:

Patricia Ferguson (Lab)

David McLetchie (Con)

Alasdair Morgan (SNP)

Mary Mulligan (Lab)

Jim Tolson (LD)

John Wilson (SNP)

Committee Substitutes:

Brian Adam (SNP)

Malcolm Chisholm (Lab)

Alex Johnstone (Con)

Alison McInnes (LD)

Public Audit Committee (M)

Remit: The remit of the Public Audit Committee is to consider and report on—

- (a) any accounts laid before the Parliament;
- (b) any report laid before or made to the Parliament by the Auditor General for Scotland; and
- (c) any other document laid before the Parliament, or referred to it by the Parliamentary Bureau or by the Auditor General for Scotland, concerning financial control, accounting and auditing in relation to public expenditure

The Public Audit Committee succeeded the Audit Committee (As agreed by resolution of the Parliament on 10 December 2008, with effect from 11 December 2008).

Convener: Hugh Henry (Lab)

Deputy Convener: Murdo Fraser (Con)

Members:

Bill Kidd (SNP)

Frank McAveety (Lab)

Willie Coffey (SNP)

Anne McLaughlin (SNP)

George Foulkes (Lab)

Nicol Stephen (LD)

Committee Substitutes:

Derek Brownlee (Con)

James Kelly (Lab)

Linda Fabiani (SNP)

John Farquhar Munro (LD)

Public Petitions Committee (M)

Remit: To consider public petitions addressed to the Parliament in accordance with these Rules and, in particular, to

- (a) decide in a case of dispute whether a petition is admissible;
- (b) decide what action should be taken upon an admissible public petition; and
- (c) keep under review the operation of the petitions system.

Convener: Rhona Brankin (Lab)

Deputy Convener: John Farquhar Munro (LD)

Members:

Rhona Brankin (Lab)

Robin Harper (Green)

Bill Butler (Lab)

Anne McLaughlin (SNP)

Cathie Craigie (Lab)

Nanette Milne (Con)

Nigel Don (SNP)

John Wilson (SNP)

Committee Substitutes:

Claire Baker (Lab)

John Scott (Con)

Jamie Hepburn (SNP)

Nicol Stephen (LD)

Rural Affairs and Environment Committee (S)

Remit: To consider and report on agriculture, fisheries and rural development and other matters falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment.

Convener: Maureen Watt (SNP)

Deputy Convener: John Scott (Con)

Members:

Aileen Campbell (SNP)

Karen Gillon (Lab)

Liam McArthur (LD)

Elaine Murray (Lab)

Peter Peacock (Lab)

Bill Wilson (SNP)

Committee Substitutes:

Rhona Brankin (Lab)

Jim Hume (LD)

Jamie McGrigor (Con)

Sandra White (SNP)

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee (M)

Remit: To consider and report on–

- (a) the practice and procedures of the Parliament in relation to its business;
- (b) whether a member's conduct is in accordance with these Rules and any Code of Conduct for members, matters relating to members' interests, and any other matters relating to the conduct of members in carrying out their parliamentary duties;
- (c) the adoption, amendment and application of any Code of Conduct for members; and
- (d) matters relating to public appointments in Scotland.

Where the Committee considers it appropriate, it may by motion recommend that a member's rights and privileges be withdrawn to such extent and for such period as are specified in the motion.

Convener: Gil Paterson (SNP)

Deputy Convener: Marilyn Livingstone (Lab)

Members:

Robert Brown (LD)

Aileen Campbell (SNP)

Angela Constance (SNP)

Nanette Milne (Con)

Peter Peacock (Lab)

Committee Substitutes:

Alasdair Morgan (SNP)

Mary Mulligan (Lab)

Mike Rumbles (LD)

Elizabeth Smith (Con)

Subordinate Legislation Committee (M)

Remit: To consider and report on-

(a) any-

(i) subordinate legislation laid before the Parliament;

(ii) Scottish Statutory Instrument not laid before the Parliament but classified as general according to its subject matter,

and, in particular, to determine whether the attention of the Parliament should be drawn to any of the matters mentioned in Rule 10.3.1;

(b) proposed powers to make subordinate legislation in particular Bills or other proposed legislation;

(c) general questions relating to powers to make subordinate legislation; and

(d) whether any proposed delegated powers in particular Bills or other legislation should be expressed as a power to make subordinate legislation.

Convener: Jamie Stone (LD)

Deputy Convener: Ian McKee (SNP)

Members:

Bob Doris (SNP)

Helen Eadie (Lab)

Rhoda Grant (Lab)

Alex Johnstone (Con)

Elaine Smith (Lab)

Committee Substitutes:

Bill Aitken (Con)

Karen Gillon (Lab)

Ross Finnie (LD)

Christopher Harvie (SNP)

Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change Committee (S)

Remit: To consider and report on matters relating to transport, infrastructure and climate change falling within the remit of the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth.

Convener: Patrick Harvie (Green)

Deputy Convener: Cathy Peattie (Lab)

Members:

Jackson Carlaw (Con)

Charlie Gordon (Lab)

Rob Gibson (SNP)

Alison McInnes (LD)

Marlyn Glen (Lab)

Shirley-Anne Somerville (SNP)

Committee Substitutes:

Alasdair Allan (SNP)

David Stewart (Lab)

Murdo Fraser (Con)

Jim Tolson (LD)

Table 1: Total Number of Scottish Parliament Committees, Session 3

Committee Type	Number of Committees
Mandatory	7
Subject	7
Ad Hoc	2
Total	16

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The Information Centre

RELATED FACT SHEETS

Scottish Parliament Committees: Cumulative List of Members, Session 3
MSPs by Party Session 3

Contacting the Public Information Service

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