



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

BUSINESS BULLETIN No. 86/2015

Today's Business

Tuesday 26 May 2015

Summary of Today's Business

Meetings of Committees

9.15 am	Health and Sport Committee	the David Livingstone Room (CR6)
10.00 am	Education and Culture Committee	the Robert Burns Room (CR1)
10.00 am	Justice Committee	the James Clerk Maxwell Room (CR4)
10.00 am	Public Petitions Committee	the Mary Fairfax Somerville Room (CR2)
11.30 am	Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee	the Adam Smith Room (CR5)

Meeting of the Parliament

2.00 pm	Time for Reflection
followed by	Parliamentary Bureau Motions
followed by	Topical Questions (if selected)
followed by	Scottish Government Debate: Equity and Excellence in Education
followed by	Business Motions
followed by	Parliamentary Bureau Motions
5.00 pm	Decision Time
followed by	Members' Business – S4M-13110 Christine Grahame: Through Our Eyes

For full details of today's business, see Section A.



The Scottish Parliament
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Business Bulletin: Tuesday 26 May 2015

Section A – Today's Business

Meetings of Committees

All meetings take place in the Scottish Parliament, unless otherwise specified. Contact details for Committee Clerks are provided at the end of the Bulletin.

Health and Sport Committee 17th Meeting, 2015

The Committee will meet at 9.15 am in the David Livingstone Room (CR6)

1. **Mental Health (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee will consider the Bill at Stage 2 (Day 2).
2. **Carers (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee members will report back on their fact-finding visit on 18 May to meet with carers from across Scotland—
3. **Carers (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee will take evidence on the Bill at Stage 1 from—

Councillor David O'Neill, President, and Beth Hall, Policy manager (Health and Social Care), COSLA;

Paul Henderson, Service Manager (Perth City, Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol), Perth and Kinross Council;

Penny Nowell, Joint Planning & Commissioning Manager and Carers Strategy Lead Officer, Dumfries and Galloway Council;

Alison Jarvis, Community Nursing Programme Manager, NHS Lothian;

and then from—

Trisha Hall, Social Worker, Manager, Scottish Association of Social Work (part of British Association of Social Work);

David Formstone, Convenor, Community Care Standing Committee, Social Work Scotland;

Fred Beckett, North East Social Work Carer Team Manager, Glasgow City Council Social Work Services;

Tam Baillie, Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People.

Education and Culture Committee 13th Meeting, 2015

The Committee will meet at 10.00 am in the Robert Burns Room (CR1)

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take item 3 in private.
2. **Attainment (sensory impairment):** The Committee will take evidence from—
Dr Alasdair Allan, Minister for Learning, Science and Scotland's Language, and Colin Spivey, Learning Directorate Team Leader, Scottish Government;

Lesley Brown, HM Inspector and Assistant Director of Community Learning and Development, Education Scotland.

3. **Annual report:** The Committee will consider a draft annual report for the parliamentary year from 11 May 2014 to 10 May 2015.

Justice Committee 17th Meeting, 2015

The Committee will meet at 10.00 am in the James Clerk Maxwell Room (CR4)

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take item 5 in private.
2. **Prisoners (Control of Release) (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee will take evidence on the Bill at Stage 2 from—
Michael Matheson, Cabinet Secretary for Justice, Philip Lamont, Head of Criminal Law and Sentencing Unit, and Fraser Gough, Parliamentary Counsel Office, Scottish Government.
3. **Inquiries into Fatal Accidents and Sudden Deaths etc. (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee will take evidence on the Bill at Stage 1 from—
Lesley Thomson, Solicitor General for Scotland;
Stephen McGowan, Procurator Fiscal, Major Crime and Fatalities Investigation, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service;
and then from—
Paul Wheelhouse, Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs, Hamish Goodall, Policy Officer, Civil Law and Legal System Division, Marisa Strutt, Policy Officer, Civil Law and Legal System Division, and Greig Walker, Solicitor, Directorate for Legal Services, Scottish Government.
4. **Annual report:** The Committee will consider a draft annual report for the parliamentary year from 11 May 2014 to 10 May 2015.
5. **Inquiries into Fatal Accidents and Sudden Deaths etc. (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee will consider the evidence received.

Public Petitions Committee 11th Meeting, 2015

The Committee will meet at 10.00 am in the Mary Fairfax Somerville Room (CR2)

1. **Consideration of a continued petition:** The Committee will consider—
[PE1558](#) by John Thom, on behalf of RNBC Crayfish Committee, Ken Dee Catchment, on American Signal Crayfish
and take evidence from—
Dr Scot Mathieson, Principal Policy Officer (Conservation), Scottish Environment Protection Agency;
Professor Colin Bean, Policy and Advice Manager (Freshwater), Scottish Natural Heritage.
2. **Consideration of new petitions:** The Committee will consider—
[PE1563](#) by Doreen Goldie, on behalf of Avonbridge and Standburn Community Council, on sewage sludge spreading

and take evidence from—

Doreen Goldie, and Jo Hirst, Avonbridge and Standburn Community Council

and will then consider—

[PE1564](#) by James Treasurer, on behalf of the Friends of the Great Glen, on saving Loch Ness and the Great Glen

and take evidence from—

James Treasurer.

3. **Consideration of continued petitions:** The Committee will consider—
[PE1319](#) by William Smith and Scott Robertson on improving youth football in Scotland;
[PE1480](#) by Amanda Kopel, on behalf of the Frank Kopel Alzheimer's Awareness Campaign, on Alzheimer's and dementia awareness;
[PE1505](#) by Jackie Watt on awareness of Strep B in pregnancy and infants;
[PE1531](#) by Ashley Husband Powton on removing charitable status from private schools;
[PE1545](#) by Ann Maxwell, on behalf of the Muir Maxwell Trust, on residential care provision for the severely learning disabled;
[PE1548](#) by Beth Morrison on national guidance on restraint and seclusion in schools;
[PE1551](#) by Scott Pattinson on mandatory reporting of child abuse.
4. **Annual report:** The Committee will consider a draft annual report for the parliamentary year from 11 May 2014 to 10 May 2015.

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee 18th Meeting, 2015

The Committee will meet at 11.30 am in the Adam Smith Room (CR5)

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take items 8 and 9 in private.
2. **Instruments subject to affirmative procedure:** The Committee will consider the following—
[Education \(School Lunches\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2015 \[draft\];](#)
[Registers of Scotland \(Voluntary Registration, Amendment of Fees, etc.\) Order 2015 \[draft\];](#)
[Water Environment and Water Services \(Scotland\) Act 2003 \(Modification of Part 1\) Regulations 2015 \[draft\];](#)
[Historic Environment Scotland Act 2014 \(Ancillary Provision\) Order 2015 \[draft\];](#)
Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002 Amendment Order 2015 [draft].
3. **Instruments subject to negative procedure:** The Committee will consider the following—
[Rural Development \(Scotland\) Regulations 2015 \(SSI 2015/192\);](#)
[Rural Payments \(Appeals\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2015 \(SSI 2015/194\).](#)
4. **Instruments not subject to any parliamentary procedure:** The Committee will consider the following—

[Historic Environment Scotland Act 2014 \(Commencement No. 3\) Order 2015 \(SSI 2015/196 \(C.31\)\)](#).

5. **Prisoners (Control of Release) (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee will consider the Scottish Government's response to points raised on the delegated powers provisions in this Bill at Stage 1.
6. **Pensions instruments:** The Committee will consider correspondence from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Constitution and Economy.
7. **Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 (Part 2 Extension) Order 2015:** The Committee will consider correspondence from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Constitution and Economy.
8. **Inquiries into Fatal Accidents and Sudden Deaths etc. (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee will consider a draft report to the Justice Committee.
9. **Correspondence from the Minister for Parliamentary Business:** The Committee will consider a paper by the Clerk.

Meeting of the Parliament

2.00 pm Time for Reflection – Reverend Neil Urquhart, Minister, Fullarton Parish Church, Irvine

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Equity and Excellence in Education

S4M-13246 Angela Constance: Equity and Excellence in Education—That the Parliament agrees that there is much to be proud of in Scotland’s schools, with children achieving record exam results, fewer young people leaving school with no or few qualifications and record numbers securing positive destinations on leaving school; recognises that Scotland currently sits mid-table in the international rankings for school education; believes therefore that much more needs to be done to make all of Scottish education truly excellent; further believes that tackling inequity by delivering excellence is a key priority for the Scottish Government; acknowledges that, while the Scottish Government is committed to doing all that it can to eradicate poverty and that poverty can be a barrier to attainment, it should not be used as an excuse for failure; welcomes the fact that the Scottish Government has said that all options will be considered and that the evidence of what works will determine future policy, and calls on all involved, including parents, teachers, school leaders, employers and politicians, to play their part in overcoming barriers to delivering an education system that ensures that every child in every community has every chance to succeed at school and in life.

The Presiding Officer has selected the following amendments

S4M-13246.2 Iain Gray: Equity and Excellence in Education—As an amendment to motion S4M-13246 in the name of Angela Constance (Equity and Excellence in Education), leave out from “with children” to end and insert “particularly the patience, hard work and dedication of teachers to their pupils’ futures; recognises that this has been delivered under the severe strain of over 4,000 fewer teachers in Scotland’s schools, leaving teacher workload pressure at an all-time high; acknowledges that, despite these efforts, numeracy and literacy standards are declining at all stages and the attainment gap remains persistent; notes concerns from teachers, headteachers, educationalists and parents regarding the implementation

of new national exams, and recognises that these cannot be addressed by simply asking teachers to do more; welcomes the Scottish Government's attainment fund and widening access commission but believes that change requires targeted resources and attention to lift the standards and aspirations of those young people who need the most help, and calls on all involved, including the Scottish Ministers, parents, teachers, school leaders, employers and local government, to play their part in overcoming barriers to delivering an education system that ensures that every child in every community has every chance to succeed at school and in life."

S4M-13246.1 Liz Smith: Equity and Excellence in Education—As an amendment to motion S4M-13246 in the name of Angela Constance (Equity and Excellence in Education), leave out from "with children" to end and insert "but believes that these qualities are undermined by the persistent failure to close the attainment gap, declining standards of literacy and numeracy and the failure of the Scottish Government to introduce more rigorous testing of these basic skills, and further believes that, in order to achieve both excellence and greater equity in education, there has to be much more focus on tailoring the learning experience to the best educational interests of individual children, which, in turn, demands greater diversity in the school system, one which allows full autonomy for headteachers and is more responsive to parental choice."

S4M-13246.3 Liam McArthur: Equity and Excellence in Education—As an amendment to motion S4M-13246 in the name of Angela Constance (Equity and Excellence in Education), leave out from "further believes" to end and insert "recognises that the early years of a child's life are the most influential in shaping an individual's life chances and that quality early years education is therefore crucial to closing the attainment gap and creating equality in education; believes that targeted funding for school-aged pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds in the form of a 'pupil premium' should be explored in Scotland as a means of giving disadvantaged pupils a better chance of reaching their potential; further believes that targeted funding should be available for students from cradle to college to ensure equality of opportunity regardless of background; views the loss of 130,000 college places, which has hit female, mature and part-time learners hardest, as a regressive step in the drive for educational equality and excellence; notes the Scottish Government's failure to deliver on its promise to 'dump' student debt,

with loans having more than doubled while bursaries have been cut; believes that such funding arrangements are disproportionately affecting poorer students, and considers that, if equality and excellence are to be available to all, the Scottish Government must consider its approach to education funding from the early years through to student support.”

followed by Business Motions
followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions
5.00 pm Decision Time
followed by Members’ Business

Debate on the subject of—

S4M-13110 Christine Grahame: Through Our Eyes—That the Parliament recognises what it considers the invaluable role of grandparents and other kinship carers throughout Scotland but, in particular, Grandparents Parenting Again and Kinship Carers (Midlothian), which was formed in 2005 and provides a listening ear, peer support, direction and guidance to kinship carers and the children they look after, carers who can find themselves raising children at a moment’s notice; commends the charity’s book, *Through Our Eyes*, which is a collection of stories and poems by individuals telling their unique experience of becoming kinship carers, stories such as *I don’t want this*, *Where do I begin?*, *It was Only for a Couple of Weeks!*, *Our Precious Grandchildren*, *Life Changes*, *A Long Road Ahead*, *It’s Hard Thinking Back* and the many heartfelt poems, and commends this book to all involved with the welfare of looked-after children for the insight that it brings to the trials and sacrifices of the kinship carers but more importantly their selflessness and love of the children and young people they find themselves caring for, often with hardly a moment’s warning.

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