



**What's Happening at Holyrood?
Anderson Strathern Parliamentary Bulletin
Monday 5 November 2007**

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Justice Committee

6 November 2007

The Committee will meet at 10.15 am in Committee Room 2

1. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee will consider the following negative instruments—

the Premises Licenses (Scotland) Regulations 2007 (SSI 2007/452);

the Licensing (Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2007 (SSI 2007/453); and

the Gambling Act 2005 (Fees No. 4) (Scotland) Regulations 2007 (SSI 2007/461).

2. **Effective use of police resources inquiry:** The Committee will take evidence from—

Joe Grant, General Secretary and Alasdair Gillies, Secretary of the Inspectors' Central Committee, Scottish Police Federation;

and then from—

Chief Superintendent Clive Murray, National President and Superintendent Val McHoull, National Second Vice-President, Association of Scottish Police Superintendents;

and then from—

Colin McKerracher, Chief Constable, Grampian Police and President of ACPOS, Peter Wilson, Chief Constable, Fife Constabulary and Honorary Secretary of ACPOS and Doug Cross, Director of Corporate Services, Tayside Police and Chair of ACPOS Finance Management Business Area;

and then from—

HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary Paddy Tomkins and Assistant Inspector of Constabulary Malcolm R Dickson.

3. **Effective use of police resources inquiry (in private):** The Committee will consider whether to accept written evidence received after the deadline for submission of written evidence.



4. **Effective use of police resources inquiry (in private):** The Committee will consider the main themes arising from the evidence session.

Proposed future business

At its next meeting on 13 November, it is expected that the Committee will continue taking evidence on its inquiry into the effective use of police resources. The Committee expects to take evidence on the Budget Process 2008-09 at subsequent meetings.

**Equal Opportunities Committee
6 November 2007**

The Committee will meet at 11.00 am in Committee Room 1

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will consider whether to take item 5 in private.

2. **Proposed Sentencing of Offences Aggravated by Prejudice (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee will take evidence on the draft proposal and statement of reasons from—

Patrick Harvie MSP; and

David Cullum, Non-Executive Bills Unit.

3. **Budget Process 2008-09 (Stage 2):** The Committee will receive a briefing on the work of the Equality Proofing the Budget and Policy Advisory Group (EPBPAG) from—

Philippa Bonella, EPBPAG member, Equality and Human Rights Commission;

and

Laura Turney, EPBPAG Chair, Scottish Government Equality Unit.

4. **European Union:** The Committee will consider a briefing paper on European matters.

5. **Budget process 2008-09 (Stage 2):** The Committee will consider its approach to the budget process.

6. **Committee inquiries (in private):** The Committee will consider a paper on possible inquiry topics.

Proposed future business

At its next meeting on 27 November, it is expected that the Committee will consider oral evidence on the Scottish Government's Draft Budget 2008-09 and will consider oral evidence, in the format of a round-table discussion, for Equality and Diversity week.

**Finance Committee
6 November 2007**

The Committee will meet at 2.00 pm in Committee Room 4



1. **Graduate Endowment Abolition (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee will take evidence on the Financial Memorandum of the Graduate Endowment Abolition (Scotland) Bill from—

Gavin Gray, Living Costs Support Team Leader, Lifelong Learning Directorate, and Chris McCrone, Finance Team Leader, Finance Directorate, Scottish Government.

2. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to consider a draft report on the Financial Memorandum of the Graduate Endowment Abolition (Scotland) Bill in private at a future meeting.

3. **Public Health etc. (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee will consider its approach to the Financial Memorandum of the Public Health etc. (Scotland) Bill.

4. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee will consider its approach to scrutiny of subordinate legislation.

5. **Budget process 2008-09 - witness expenses:** The Committee will be invited to delegate to the Convener responsibility for arranging for the SPCB to pay, under Rule 12.4.3, any claims for witness expenses arising from the Committee's consideration of the budget process 2008-09.

Proposed future business

At its next meeting on 13 November, it is expected that the Committee will take evidence on the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body's Budget for 2008-09.

Public Petitions Committee 6 November 2007

The Committee will meet at 2.00 pm in Committee Room 1

1. **Declaration of interests:** Nigel Don MSP will be invited to declare any relevant interests.

2. **Decisions on taking business in private:** The Committee will consider whether to take item 5 in private.

3. **Consideration of new petitions:** The Committee will consider the following new petitions—

PE1062 Lancastria commemorative medal

Mark Hirst will make a brief statement to the Committee in support of his petition accompanied by Fiona Symon and Lt. Commander Chris Walsh, Royal Navy.

PE1080 Re-introduction of passenger services on the Edinburgh South Suburban Railway

Lawrence Marshall will make a brief statement to the Committee in support of his petition accompanied by Andrew Robb and Patrick Hutton.



PE1067 A76. Upgrading and implementing a safety strategy for the A76

PE1068 Public health risks associated with racing pigeons

PE1078 Protection of historic sites

PE1079 Educational maintenance allowance

PE1081 Maritime and maritime air space responsibilities and organizations

PE1082 Review of consultation practices and reinstatement of funding to Scottish Civic Forum.

PE1083 The creation of local museums

4. **Consideration of current petitions:** The Committee will further consider the following current petitions—

PE765 and PE795 Retention of fire control rooms

PE886 Alzheimer's disease

PE920/PE922/PE1018 NHS dental services

PE923 Pastoral and spiritual care in hospitals

PE981 Recruitment and appointment of NHS psychologists

PE1004 Environmental impact of animal gasification plants

PE1031 Assisted suicide

PE1034 Post legislative monitoring body.

5. **Notification of new petitions:** The Committee will consider a paper on new petitions lodged since the last Committee meeting.

6. **Witness expenses:** The Committee will be invited to delegate to the Convener responsibility for arranging for the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body to pay, under Rule 12.4.3, any expenses of witnesses in the Committee's consideration of petitions.

Proposed future business

At its next meeting on 20 November, it is expected that the Committee will consider new petitions PE1070, PE1071, PE1072 PE1085, PE1086, PE1087, PE1088 and PE1089. The Committee also expects to further consider current petitions PE743, PE822, PE821, PE768, PE898, PE899, PE911, PE913, PE1003.



**Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change Committee
6 November 2007**

The Committee will meet at 2.00 pm in Committee Room 6

1. **Subordinate Legislation:** The Committee will consider the following negative instrument—

the Road Traffic (Permitted Parking Area and Special Parking Area) (City of Edinburgh) Designation Amendment Order 2007 (SSI 2007/446).

2. **Petition:** The Committee will consider Petition PE894 on the provision of rail services between Inverness, Thurso and Wick.

3. **Ferry Links to the Scottish Islands:** The Committee will consider its approach to its inquiry into ferry links to the Scottish Islands.

4. **Climate Change:** The Committee will consider its approach to gathering information on climate change issues in advance of forthcoming legislation.

Proposed future business

At its next meeting on the 13 November, it is expected that the Committee will consider its approach to the Budget Process 2008-09.

**Subordinate Legislation Committee
6 November 2007**

The Committee will meet at 2.15 pm in Committee Room 5

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take item 7 in private.

2. **Scottish Government responses:** The Committee will consider the Scottish Government's response in relation to the following—

the Budget (Scotland) Act 2007 Amendment Order 2007 (SSI 2007/draft);

the Act of Sederunt (Ordinary Cause, Summary Application, Summary Cause and Small Claim Rules) Amendment (Vulnerable Witnesses (Scotland) Act 2004) 2007 (SSI 2007/463); and

the Materials and Articles in Contact with Food (Scotland) Regulations 2007 (SSI 2007/471).

3. **Instruments subject to approval:** The Committee will consider the following—

the Criminal Proceedings etc. (Reform) (Scotland) Act 2007 (Incidental, Supplemental and Consequential Provisions) Order 2007 (SSI 2007/draft).

4. **Instruments subject to annulment:** The Committee will consider the following—



the District Courts and Justices of the Peace (Scotland) Order 2007 (SSI 2007/480);

the Pesticides (Maximum Residue Levels in Crops, Food and Feeding Stuffs) (Scotland) Amendment (No. 3) Regulations 2007 (SSI 2007/481);

the Natural Mineral Water, Spring Water and Bottled Drinking Water (Scotland) (No. 2) Regulations 2007 (SSI 2007/483);

the Environmental Impact Assessment (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2007 (SSI 2007/484);

the Environmental Impact Assessment and Natural Habitats (Extraction of Minerals by Marine Dredging) (Scotland) Regulations 2007 (SSI 2007/485); and

the Education (School and Placing Information) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2007 (SSI 2007/487).

5. Instruments not laid before the Parliament: The Committee will consider the following—

the Criminal Proceedings etc. (Reform) (Scotland) Act 2007 (Commencement No.2 and Transitional Provisions and Savings) Order 2007 (SSI 2007/479).

6. Consolidation Working Group: the Committee will consider a report from the Clerk.

7. Work programme: the Committee will consider its work programme.

Proposed future business

At its next meeting on 13 November, it is expected that the Committee will consider Scottish Statutory Instruments and any other documents subject to Parliamentary procedure.

Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee 7 November 2007

The Committee will meet at 9.30 am in Committee Room 1

1. Items in private: The Committee will consider whether to take items 5 and 6, and any future briefings from the Budget Adviser, in private.

2. Reform of the enterprise networks and VisitScotland: The Committee will take evidence on the Scottish Government's reform of the enterprise networks and VisitScotland from—

John Swinney MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth, Graeme Dickson, Director of Enterprise, Energy and Tourism, Wilson Malone, Head of Enterprise Networks Division, and Suzanne Henderson, Special Projects (Enterprise Networks), Scottish Government.



3. Skills for Scotland: A Lifelong Skills Strategy: The Committee will take evidence on the Scottish Government's Skills Strategy from—

Fiona Hyslop MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning, Rosemary Winter-Scott, Head of Employability and Skills Division, and Laura Barjonas, Programme Director of the Skills Body Project, Scottish Government.

4. Proposed Scottish register of tartans bill: The Committee will consider the proposer's statement of reasons why a case for the proposed bill has already been established.

5. Inquiry into tourism: The Committee will consider the job description for its proposed adviser.

6. Budget process 2008-09: The Committee will consider its approach to scrutiny of the Scottish Government's Draft Budget 2008-09.

Proposed future business

At its next meeting on 21 November, it is expected that the Committee will consider its approach to scrutiny of the Scottish Government's Draft Budget 2008-09. The Committee will also take evidence on the Energy Technologies Institute.

**Education, Lifelong Learning and Culture Committee
7 November 2007**

The Committee will meet at 9.30 am in Committee Room 2

1. Graduate Endowment Abolition (Scotland) Bill: The Committee will take evidence on the general principles of the Bill at Stage 1 from—

Alex Young, Bill Team Leader, Lifelong Learning Directorate, Chris McCrone, Glasgow Finance Team Leader, Finance Directorate, and Andrew Campbell, Senior Principal Legal Officer, Scottish Government Legal Directorate, Scottish Government;

and then from—

Graham Philp, Finance and Fraud Team Leader, and Audrey Clark, Customer Services Section Leader, Student Awards Agency for Scotland; and Ralph Seymour-Jackson, Chief Executive, Student Loans Company.

2. Subordinate legislation: Maureen Watt MSP (Minister for Schools and Skills) to move S3M-558—

Fiona Hyslop: The Draft Protection of Charities Assets (Exemption) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2007—That the Education, Lifelong Learning and Culture Committee recommends that the draft Protection of Charities Assets (Exemption) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2007 be approved.



3. **Subordinate legislation:** Maureen Watt MSP (Minister for Schools and Skills) to move S3M-559—

Fiona Hyslop: The Draft Fundable Bodies (Scotland) (No. 2) Order 2007—
That the Education, Lifelong Learning and Culture Committee recommends that the draft Fundable Bodies (Scotland) (No. 2) Order 2007 be approved.

4. **Scottish Broadcasting Commission:** The Committee will take evidence on the new independent body set up by the Scottish Government to investigate television production and broadcasting in Scotland from—

Blair Jenkins, Chair, Scottish Broadcasting Commission.

Proposed future business

At its next meeting on 14 November, it is expected that the Committee will continue to take evidence on the Graduate Endowment Abolition (Scotland) Bill.

**Audit Committee
7 November 2007**

The Committee will meet at 10.00 am in Committee Room 5

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will consider whether to take agenda items 7 and 8 in private.

2. **Section 22 Reports:** The Committee will receive a briefing from the Auditor General for Scotland on the Section 22 reports entitled "The 2006/07 Audit of the Scottish Arts Council" and "The 2006/07 Audit of the Western Isles Health Board".

3. **Sustainable waste management:** The Committee will consider responses from the Accountable Officer and COSLA on the Auditor General for Scotland's report entitled "Sustainable waste management". (AGS/2007/7).

4. **Estate management in higher education:** The Committee will consider responses from Universities Scotland, the Scottish Funding Council and the Accountable Officer on the Auditor General for Scotland's report entitled "Estate management in higher education". (AGS/2007/6).

5. **Primary care out-of-hours services:** The Committee will consider a response from the Accountable Officer on the Auditor General for Scotland's report entitled "Primary care out-of-hours services". (AGS/2007/5).

6. **PAC Symposium :** The Committee will consider an invitation to the Convener to attend a symposium on the parliamentary scrutiny of public spending organised by the Committee of Public Accounts.

7. **Consideration of approach:** The Committee will consider its approach to the Section 22 Reports entitled "The 2006/07 Audit of the Scottish Arts Council" and "The 2006/07 Audit of the Western Isles Health Board" and to the Auditor General for Scotland's report entitled "Primary care out-of-hours services". (AGS/2007/5).



8. **Dealing with offending by young people:** The Committee will consider its approach to a forthcoming evidence session with the Accountable Officer on the Auditor General for Scotland's report entitled "Dealing with offending by young people". (AGS/2007/4).

Proposed future business

At its next meeting on 21 November, it is expected that the Committee will take oral evidence from Philip Rycroft on the Auditor's General for Scotland's report "Dealing with offending by young people" (AGS2007/4) and consider a briefing from the Auditor General for Scotland on his report on the 2006/07 Audit of the Mental Health Tribunal for Scotland Administration.

**Local Government and Communities Committee
7 November 2007**

The Committee will meet at 10.00 am in Committee Room 6

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will consider whether to take item 4 in private.

2. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee will consider the following negative instrument—

the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 (Consequential Amendments) Order 2007 (SSI 2007/475).

3. **Report of the Electoral Commission:** The Committee will consider the report of the Electoral Commission on the Scottish Elections 2007.

4. **Proposed Glasgow Commonwealth Games Bill:** The Committee will consider its approach to the proposed Glasgow Commonwealth Games Bill.

Proposed future business

At its next meeting on 14 November, it is expected that the Committee will take oral evidence from representatives of the Housing Supply Task Force and from the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman. The Committee expects to take evidence on the proposed Commonwealth Games Bill at subsequent meetings.

**Rural Affairs and Environment Committee
7 November 2007**

The Committee will meet at 10.00 am in Committee Room 4

1. **Scottish Government's Budget 2008-09:** The Committee will consider its approach to scrutiny of the Scottish Government's budget proposals for 2008-09.

2. **Crown Estate:** The Committee will consider, in the light of evidence taken so far, what further scrutiny to undertake of the issues raised by the Crown Estate Review Working Group report, *The Crown Estate in Scotland: new opportunities for public benefits*.

3. **Flooding and flood management inquiry:** The Committee will consider an update on the progress of the inquiry and initial witnesses to give oral evidence.



4. **Ticks and tick-borne diseases:** The Committee will consider whether to appoint John Scott as a Committee reporter on ticks and tick-borne diseases.

5. **Subordinate Legislation:** The Committee will consider the following negative instruments—

the Less Favoured Area Support Scheme (Scotland) Regulations 2007 (SSI 2007/439);

the Import and Export Restrictions (Foot-and-Mouth Disease) (Scotland) (No. 5) Regulations 2007 (SSI 2007/473); and

the Pesticides (Maximum Residue Levels in Crops, Food and Feeding Stuffs) (Scotland) Amendment (No.3) Regulations 2007 (SSI 2007/481).

Not before 11am—

6. **Fisheries Council:** The Committee will take evidence on the issues to be considered at the December EU Fisheries Council, from—

Dr Euan Dunn, Head of Marine Policy, and Mark Ruskell, Policy Officer, RSPB Scotland; and

Helen McLachlan, Marine Policy Officer, WWF Scotland;

and then from—

Bertie Armstrong, Chief Executive, Scottish Fishermen's Federation.

Proposed future business

At its next meeting on 21 November, the Committee will take further evidence on sea fisheries issues in the run-up to the December Fisheries Council, and may also take further evidence on the Crown Estate and/or evidence on the Scottish Government's budget proposals. The Cabinet Secretary is expected to give evidence on sea fisheries and on the budget proposals on 5 December.