

**What's Happening at Holyrood?
Anderson Strathern Parliamentary Bulletin
Monday 11 June 2007**

This weekly Parliamentary Bulletin, detailing business at the Scottish Parliament, is composed of 3 sections: [Bills in progress](#), [Chamber Business](#) and [Committee Business](#)

The text highlighted in red signifies the developments that have taken place since the last Parliamentary Bulletin on 4 June 2007.

BILLS IN PROGRESS

Key: (Ex) = Executive Bill; (M) = Member's Bill; (C) = Committee Bill; (P) = Private Bill.

There are currently no Bills proceeding through the Scottish Parliament.

CHAMBER BUSINESS

Wednesday 13 June 2007

2.30 pm Time for Reflection – Colin Symes, Community Church Edinburgh

followed by Ministerial Statement: Higher Education

followed by Executive Debate: A Greener Scotland

followed by Business Motion

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business – debate on the subject of S3M-40 Karen Whitefield: Education is a Human Right

Thursday 14 June 2007

9.15 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Scottish Green Party Debate: Trident

followed by Scottish Green Party Debate: Carbon Offsetting

11.40 am General Question Time

12 noon First Minister's Question Time

2.15 pm Themed Question Time—
Finance and Sustainable Growth
Justice and Law Officers

2.55 pm Executive Debate: Free Personal Care

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business – debate on the subject of S3M-12 Rob Gibson: Scottish Norwegian Commercial Co-operation

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

On Thursday 7 June 2007, Parliament voted and agreed to establish Committees and their respective remits. The Parliament also agreed the Convenership of each Committee. A Parliamentary Bureau motion setting out the membership of each Committee is expected to be considered by Parliament next week.

Mandatory Committees

There are 8 mandatory Committees which are required in accordance with the Parliament's Standing Orders. The following Committees will therefore be established:

1. Audit Committee

The Convener of the Audit Committee will be a Labour MSP and the Deputy Convener will be a Conservative MSP.

The remit of the Audit Committee is to consider and report on: any accounts laid before the Parliament, any report laid before or made to the Parliament by the Auditor General for Scotland and any other document laid before the Parliament concerning financial control, accounting and auditing in relation to public expenditure

2. Equal Opportunities

The Convener of the Equal Opportunities Committee will be a Conservative MSP and the Deputy Convener will be a Labour MSP.

The remit of the Equal Opportunities Committee is to consider and report on matters relating to equal opportunities and upon the observance of equal opportunities within the Parliament.

3. European and External Affairs Committee

The Convener of the European and External Affairs Committee will be a Labour MSP and the Deputy Convener will be an SNP MSP.

The remit of the European and External Affairs Committee is to consider and report on: proposals for and implementation of European Communities legislation; any European Communities or European Union issue; the development and implementation of the Scottish Administration's links with countries and territories outside Scotland, the European Communities and other international organisations; and co-ordination of the international activities of the Scottish Administration.

4. Finance Committee

The Convener of the Finance Committee will be an SNP MSP and the Deputy Convener will be a Labour MSP.

The remit of the Finance Committee is to consider and report on: any report or other document laid before Parliament by the Scottish Executive relating to public expenditure or the making of a tax varying resolution; any report made by a Committee setting out proposals concerning public expenditure; Budget Bills; and any other matter relating to the expenditure of the Scottish Administration.

5. Procedures Committee

The Convener of the Procedures Committee will be an SNP MSP and the Deputy Convener will be a Labour MSP.

The remit of the Procedures Committee is to consider and report on the practice and procedures of the Parliament in relation to its business.

It has been proposed by the Scottish Executive that the Procedures Committee and the Standards and Public Appointments Committee are merged to form one Committee. This decision will be taken by the Procedures Committee at its inaugural meeting.

6. Public Petitions Committee

The Convener of the Public Petitions Committee will be a Labour MSP and the Deputy Convener will be a Liberal Democrat MSP.

The remit of the Public Petitions Committee is to consider public petitions and in particular to: decide in a case of dispute whether a petition is admissible; decide what action should be taken in relation to an admissible petition; and keep under review the operation of the petitions system.

7. Standards and Public Appointments Committee

The Convener of the Standards and Public Appointments Committee will be an SNP MSP and the Deputy Convener will be a Labour MSP.

The remit of the Standards and Public Appointments Committee is to consider and report on: whether a member's conduct is in accordance with the Code of Conduct; the adoption, amendment and application of any Code of Conduct; and matters relating to public appointments in Scotland.

It has been proposed by the Scottish Executive that the Procedures Committee and the Standards and Public Appointments Committee are merged to form one Committee. This decision will be taken by the Procedures Committee at its inaugural meeting.

8. Subordinate Legislation Committee

The Convener of the Subordinate Legislation Committee will be a Liberal Democrat MSP and the Deputy Convener will be an SNP MSP.

The remit of the Subordinate Legislation Committee is to consider and report on any subordinate legislation laid before the Parliament and any general questions relating to powers to make subordinate legislation, amongst other functions.

Subject Committees

The Parliament's Standing Orders also make provision for the creation of subject Committees, which can vary from one Parliamentary session to the next. The subject Committees tend to broadly reflect the division of responsibilities across Scottish Executive departments. The 7 subject Committees, and their respective remits, which will be established in this Parliamentary session are as follows:

1. Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee

The Convener of the Committee will be a Liberal Democrat MSP and the Deputy Convener will be an SNP MSP.

The remit of the Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee is 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.

2. Education, Lifelong Learning and Culture Committee

The Convener of the Committee will be a Labour MSP and the Deputy Convener will be an SNP MSP.

The remit of the Education, Lifelong Learning and Culture Committee is 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 Europe, External Affairs and Culture.

3. Justice Committee

The Convener of the Committee will be a Conservative MSP and the Deputy Convener will be a Labour MSP.

The remit of the Justice Committee is 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.

4. Health and Sport Committee

The Convener of the Committee will be an SNP MSP and the Deputy Convener will be a Liberal Democrat MSP.

The remit of the Health and Sport Committee is 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 Communities and Sport.

5. Local Government and Communities Committee

The Convener of the Committee will be a Labour MSP and the Deputy Convener will be an SNP MSP.

The remit of the Local Government and Communities Committee is 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 (apart from sport) falling within the responsibility of the Minister for Communities and Sport.

6. Rural Affairs and Environment Committee

The Convener of the Committee will be an SNP MSP and the Deputy Convener will be a Conservative MSP.

The remit of the Rural Affairs and Environment Committee is 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.

7. Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change

The Convener of the Committee will be a Green MSP and the Deputy Convener will be a Labour MSP.

The remit of the Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change Committee is 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.

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have any queries in respect of the information in this Parliamentary Bulletin or require advice on the parliamentary process or legislative drafting, please contact: [Fiona Killen](#) on 0131 625 7296, [Sinead Riach](#) on 0131 270 7772 or [Alison Presly](#) on 0131 625 8156.