



**What's Happening at Holyrood?  
Anderson Strathern Parliamentary Bulletin  
Monday 10 September 2007**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Scottish Government unveiled its legislative programme for the forthcoming parliamentary session on Wednesday 5 September 2007. First Minister Alex Salmond addressed the Scottish Parliament, setting out the Government's priorities as detailed in the recently published "Principles and Priorities: The Government's Programme for Scotland". Full details of the 11 proposed Bills, can be found here. (link to new page with below info).

The Scottish Government has announced its intention to introduce the following 11 Bills in the forthcoming parliamentary session.

Abolition of Bridge Tolls (Scotland) Bill:

This Bill seeks to abolish the tolls on the Forth Road and Tay Bridges. The Government aims to provide a boost to the economies of Tayside and Fife and ensure the Scottish road network and its users are treated consistently and fairly. This Bill was introduced on 3 September 2007.

Interest on Debt and Damages Bill:

Building on recommendations from the Scottish Law Commission, this Bill will seek to develop fair rules for the application of interest rates to payments of debt and damages by bringing in a right to claim interest, from the time when a sum of money becomes due by one person to another.

Budget Bill 2008:

This Bill will be introduced in January 2008 and will give the Government authority to spend, and provide a transparent framework for the spending of, resources from the Scottish consolidated fund.

Creative Scotland Bill:

In a bid to strengthen Scotland's creative sector, and generate further jobs and income for the economy, this Bill will provide the authority for establishment of a new cultural development body to replace the Scottish Arts Council.

Graduate Endowment (Abolition) Bill:

This Bill will abolish the Graduate Endowment. The Government plans to abolish the fee from 2007 onwards in order to benefit students who currently pay around £2,300 after graduation.

Public Health (Scotland) Bill:

This Bill aims to provide a comprehensive modernisation of Scotland's public health legislation which currently dates as far back as 1897. The Bill seeks to extend current laws to include action for protection against biological, chemical and radiological contamination, including more powers of quarantine.



Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games Bill:

Should Glasgow's bid to host the 2014 Commonwealth Games be successful, this Bill will provide the framework required for the games to set new standards, and will include provisions for facilities to get Scottish people physically active.

Local Health Bill:

A Bill will be introduced in order to give greater patient and community involvement in how local health services are delivered, including through participation in direct elections to Scotland's Health Boards.

Judiciary (Scotland) Bill:

This Bill aims to modernise the organisation of Scotland's judiciary. The judiciary will be given greater power over the Scottish Court Service and the Bill will seek to put the Judicial Appointments Board on a statutory footing.

Rape and Sexual Offences (Scotland) Bill:

This Bill will provide reform in this area of law in the light of the Scottish Law Commission's report into this issue and the ongoing concern at Scotland's rape conviction rate.

Flooding Prevention (Scotland) Bill:

This Bill will seek to modernise the current approach to flood protection with the aim of adopting a more flexible and sustainable approach. A consultation will be held on several issues, including how to fund small-scale defences locally, improve flood risk information and ensure that management plans are produced for all high-risk areas.

## **BILLS IN PROGRESS**

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

[Abolition of Tolls \(Scotland\) Bill \(Ex\)](#)

This Bill seeks: to make provisions for the removal of the remaining tolls from the Forth and Tay Road Bridges as soon as is practicable. This will be done by removing the powers of the Forth Estuary Transport Authority to charge tolls on the Forth Road Bridge and by removing the penalties for non-payment of these tolls. The powers of the Tay Road Bridge Joint Board to charge tolls on the Tay Road bridge will be removed and relevant provisions relating to these powers will be repealed.

*Current status*

The Bill was introduced on 3 September 2007 and the Transport Infrastructure and Climate Change Committee was assigned as the Lead Committee for examination of the Bill. The Committee has issued a call for evidence with a deadline for receipt of written submissions on 5 October 2007. The Committee will meet this week on 11 September and take oral evidence on the general principles of the Bill at Stage 1. For full details of the witnesses, please see the relevant Committee agenda under Committee Business.



**CHAMBER BUSINESS**

**Wednesday 12 September 2007**

**2.30 pm** Time for Reflection – Dr Jagtar Singh Nijjar, Scottish Interfaith Council

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Scottish Government Debate: The Scottish Government's Skills Strategy

*followed by* Business Motion

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

**5.00 pm** Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business – debate on the subject of S3M-187 Sarah Boyack: Save the Land Reform Act and Restore the Will of Parliament

**Thursday 13 September 2007**

**9.15 am** Parliamentary Bureau Motions

The Clerk has been advised of the topic of the following Scottish Labour Party business.

*followed by* Scottish Labour Party Debate: Education

**11.40 am** General Question Time

**12 noon** First Minister's Question Time

**2.15 pm** Themed Question Time—

Europe, External Affairs and Culture;  
Education and Lifelong Learning

**2.55 pm** Ministerial Statement: Broadcasting

**3.50 pm** Ministerial Statement: National Developments in Planning

*followed by* Debate on the draft Smoking, Health and Social Care (Scotland) Act 2005 (Variation of Age Limit for Sale of Tobacco etc. and Consequential Modifications) Order 2007

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions



5.00 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business – debate on the subject of S3M-273 Brian Adam: MacMillan Cancer Support's Recovered but not Covered Campaign

## COMMITTEE BUSINESS

### Justice Committee 11 September 2007

The Committee will meet at 10.15 am in Committee Room 2

**1. Decision on taking business in private: The Committee will consider whether to take items 6, 7 and 8 in private.**

**2. Subordinate legislation:** Kenny MacAskill MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Justice, to move S3M-280—

That the Justice Committee recommends that the draft Scotland Act 1998 (Transfer of Functions to the Scottish Ministers etc.) Order 2007 be approved.

**3. Subordinate legislation:** Kenny MacAskill MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Justice, to move S3M-279—

That the Justice Committee recommends that the draft Licensing (Mandatory Conditions) (Scotland) Regulations 2007 be approved.

**4. Report of the external Budget Review Group:** The Committee will take evidence from—

Bill Howat, Lead Reviewer, George Thorley, Member and Bill Matthews, Member, Budget Review Group.

**5. Petitions:** The Committee will consider the following petitions—

PE767 by Norman Dunning, on behalf of ENABLE, calling for the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to review the operation and effectiveness of the Fatal Accidents and Sudden Deaths Inquiry (Scotland) Act 1976;

PE997 by Peter Cox, on behalf of the Mothers for Justice Campaign, calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to provide greater protection to the children and partners of abusive parents; and

PE1000 by All Saints Secondary School, calling for the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to investigate the public health implications of cheaply available alcohol.



6. **Work programme:** The Committee will consider its work programme.
7. **Budget process 2008-09:** The Committee will consider its approach to the budget process.
8. **Budget process 2008-09:** The Committee will consider a list of candidates for the post of adviser.

**Proposed future business**

At its next meeting on 2 October, it is expected that the Committee will consider subordinate legislation.

**Equal Opportunities Committee  
11 September 2007**

The Committee will meet at 11.00 am in Committee Room 1

1. **Work programme:** The Committee will consider a paper on its work programme.
2. **Reporter system:** The Committee will consider a paper on reporters.

**Proposed future business**

At its next meeting on 2 October is expected that the Committee will consider its approach to the budget process 2008-2009 and its approach to the engaging with European matters.

**Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change Committee  
11 September 2007**

The Committee will meet at 1.00 pm in Committee Room 2

1. **Declaration of interests:** Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP will be invited to declare any relevant interests.
2. **Scottish Government priorities for transport:** The Committee will take evidence from—

Stewart Stevenson MSP, Minister for Transport Infrastructure and Climate Change.

3. **Abolition of Bridge Tolls (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee will take evidence on the Bill at Stage 1 from—

David Patel, Deputy Director, Transport Directorate, Chris Rogers, Team Leader, Tolloed Bridges, Keith Main, Policy Advisor, Tolloed Bridges, Scottish Government;

and then from—

Alastair Andrew, General Manager and Bridgemaster, and John Connarty, Forth Estuary Transport Authority; and John Crerar, Bridgemaster and David Dorward, Treasurer, Tay Road Bridge Joint Board;



and then from—

Stephen Boyd, Assistant Secretary, Scottish Trades Union Congress and Sandy Smart, Regional Industrial Organiser, Transport and General Workers' Union – UNITE.

**4. Abolition of Bridge Tolls (Scotland) Bill - witness expenses:** The Committee will be invited to delegate responsibility to the Convener for payment of any witness expenses incurred during the Committee's consideration of the Bill.

**5. Appointment of a budget adviser:** The Committee will consider appointing a budget adviser to assist in its consideration of the Scottish Budget.

**Proposed future business**

At its next meeting on 18 September, the Committee will continue to take evidence at Stage 1 on the Abolition of Bridge Tolls (Scotland) Bill.

**Finance Committee  
11 September 2007**

The Committee will meet at 2.00 pm in Committee Room 4

**1. Work programme and working practices:** The Committee will consider whether to formally adopt the work programme and working practices agreed at its away day.

**2. Abolition of Bridge Tolls (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee will consider its approach to the Financial Memorandum of the Abolition of Bridge Tolls (Scotland) Bill.

**3. Budget process 2008-09 (Stage 2):** The Committee will consider guidance for the Parliamentary subject committees.

**Proposed future business**

At its next meeting on 25 September, it is expected that the Committee will take oral evidence on the Financial Memorandum of the Abolition of Bridge Tolls (Scotland) Bill.

**Procedures Committee  
11 September 2007**

The Committee will meet at 2.15 pm in Committee Room 6

**1. Declaration of interests:** Jamie McGrigor MSP will be invited to declare any relevant interests.

**2. Proposed merging of the Procedures Committee and the Standards and Public Appointments Committee (in private):** The Committee will consider a draft report on the proposal to merge the Committees.

**Subordinate Legislation Committee  
11 September 2007**

The Committee will meet at 2.15 pm in Committee Room 5



1. **Declaration of interests:** Helen Eadie MSP will be invited to declare any relevant interests.

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

the Provision of School Lunches (Disapplication of the Requirement to Charge) (Scotland) Order 2007, (SI 2007/draft);

the Licensing Conditions (Late Opening Premises) (Scotland) Regulations 2007, (SSI 2007/336);

the European Communities (Lawyer's Practice) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2007, (SSI 2007/358);

the European Communities (Services of Lawyers) Amendment (Scotland) Order 2007, (SSI 2007/359);

the Animals and Animal Products (Import and Export) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2007, (SSI 2007/375);

the Import and Export Restrictions (Foot-and-Mouth Disease) (Scotland) Regulation 2007, (SSI 2007/376);

the Import and Export Restrictions (Foot-and-Mouth Disease) (Scotland) (No. 2) Regulations 2007, (SSI 2007/377);

the Foot-and-Mouth Disease (Export Restrictions) (Scotland) Regulations 2007, (SSI 2007/386);

Act of Sederunt (Rules of the Court of Session Amendment No. 6) (Recognition and Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters) 2007, (SSI 2007/350);

Act of Sederunt (Sheriff Court European Enforcement Order Rules) Amendment (Extension to Denmark) 2007, (SSI 2007/351);

Act of Sederunt (Rules of the Court of Session Amendment No.7) (Devolution Issues) 2007, (SSI 2007/360);

Act of Adjournal (Criminal Procedure Rules Amendment No. 4) (Devolution Issues) 2007, (SSI 2007/361);

Act of Sederunt (Proceedings for Determination of Devolution Issues Rules) Amendment 2007, (SSI 2007/362); and

the Disease Control (Interim Measures) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2007, (SSI 2007/387).

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



the Club Gaming and Club Machine Permits (Scotland) Regulations 2007, (SSI 2007/draft); and

the Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permits (Scotland) Regulations 2007, (SSI 2007/draft).

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

the National Health Service (Pharmaceutical Services) (Scotland) Amendment (No. 2) Regulations 2007, (SSI 2007/390);

the National Health Service (Primary Medical Services Section 17C Agreements) (Scotland) Amendment (No. 2) Regulations 2007, (SSI 2007/393);

the Plant Protection Products (Scotland) Amendment (No. 2) Regulations 2007, (SSI 2007/410);

the Miscellaneous Food Additives and the Sweeteners in Food Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2007, (SSI 2007/412);

the Plant Health (Scotland) (Amendment) Order 2007, (SSI 2007/415);

the Plant Health (*Phytophthora ramorum*) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2007, (SSI 2007/416);

the National Health Service (Charges for Drugs and Appliances) (Scotland) (No. 2) Regulations 2007, (SSI 2007/389);

the Provision of School Education for Children under School Age (Prescribed Children) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2007, (SSI 2007/396);

the Common Agricultural Policy Single Farm Payment and Support Schemes (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2007, (SSI 2007/414);

the National Health Service (General Medical Services Contracts) (Scotland) Amendment (No. 2) Regulations 2007, (SSI 2007/392);

the Gambling Act 2005 (Review of Premises Licences) (Scotland) Regulations 2007, (SSI 2007/394);

the Gambling Act 2005 (Fees No. 3) (Scotland) Regulations 2007, (SSI 2007/395);

the Licensing (Training of Staff) (Scotland) Regulations 2007, (SSI 2007/397);

the Private Security Industry Act 2001 (Designated Activities) (Scotland) Order 2007, (SSI 2007/398);

the Water Industry Commissioner for Scotland (Dissolution) Order 2007, (SSI 2007/399);



the Regulation of Care (Social Service Workers) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2007, (SSI 2007/407);

the Scottish Road Works Commissioner (Imposition of Penalties) Regulations 2007, (SSI 2007/411); and

the National Health Service (Primary Medical Services Performers Lists) (Scotland) Amendment (No. 2) Regulations 2007, (SSI 2007/413).

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

the Disease Control (Interim Measures) (Scotland) Amendment (No. 2) Order 2007, (SSI 2007/400); and

the Transport (Scotland) Act 2005 (Commencement No. 3) Order 2007, (SSI 2007/409).

#### **Proposed future business**

At its next meeting on 18 September, it is expected that the Committee will consider Scottish statutory instruments and any other documents subject to Parliamentary procedure.

### **Standards and Public Appointments Committee 11 September 2007**

The Committee will meet at 2.45 pm in Committee Room 6

- 1. Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will consider whether to take agenda item 2 in private.
- 2. Work programme:** The Committee will consider its approach to developing its work programme.

### **Audit Committee 12 September 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 item 7 in private.
- 2. Managing long-term conditions:** The Committee will receive a briefing from the Auditor General for Scotland on his report entitled "Managing long-term conditions". (AGS 2007/03)
- 3. Primary care out-of-hours services:** The Committee will receive a briefing from the Auditor General for Scotland on his report entitled "Primary care out-of-hours services". (AGS/2007/5)



4. **Dealing with offending by young people:** The Committee will receive a briefing from the Auditor General for Scotland on his report entitled "Dealing with offending by young people". (AGS/2007/4)
5. **Relocation of Scottish Executive Departments:** The Committee will consider a response from the Scottish Government to its 1<sup>st</sup> report 2007 entitled "Relocation of Scottish Executive Departments, agencies and NDPBs".
6. **Community planning:** The Committee will consider a response from the Scottish Government to its 2<sup>nd</sup> report 2007 entitled "Community planning: an initial review".
7. **Consideration of approach:** The Committee will consider its approach to the AGS reports entitled: "Managing long term conditions"(AGS/2007/3), "Primary care out-of-hours services" (AGS/2007/5) and "Dealing with offending by young people" (AGS/2007/4).

#### **Proposed future business**

At its next meeting on 26 September, it is expected that the Committee will consider further briefings from the Auditor General for Scotland.

### **Health and Sport Committee 12 September 2007**

The Committee will meet at 10.00 am in Committee Room 2

1. **Declaration of interests:** Helen Eadie MSP will be invited to declare any relevant interests.
2. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will consider whether to take item 7 in private.
3. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee will take evidence on the Smoking, Health and Social Care (Scotland) Act 2005 (Variation of Age Limit for Sale of Tobacco etc. and Consequential Modifications) Order 2007, (SSI 2007/draft) from—

Shona Robison MSP, Minister for Public Health.

4. **Subordinate legislation:** Shona Robison MSP, Minister for Public Health to move S3M-281—

That the Health Committee recommends that The Smoking, Health and Social Care (Scotland) Act 2005 (Variation of Age Limit for Sale of Tobacco etc. and Consequential Modifications) Order 2007, (SSI 2007/draft) be approved.

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

the Bovine Products (Restriction on Placing on the Market) (Scotland) (No.2) Amendment Regulations 2007, (SSI 2007/338);



the Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2007, (SSI 2007/357);

the Food (Suspension of the Use of E 128 Red 2g as Food Colour) (Scotland) Regulations 2007, (SSI 2007/363); and

the Nutrition and Health Claims (Scotland) Regulations 2007, (SSI 2007/383).

**6. Petitions:** The Committee will consider the following petitions—

PE1037 by David Nelson, calling for the Scottish Parliament to amend the Smoking, Health and Social Care (Scotland) Act 2005 to allow smoking in pubs and clubs with designated smoking areas; and

PE1042 by Belinda Cunniston, calling for the Scottish Parliament to review the smoking prohibition and control provisions of the Smoking, Health and Social Care (Scotland) Act 2005 and to adopt a comprehensive approach to indoor air pollution by introducing a Regulated Indoor Air Quality Standard.

**7. Appointment of a budget adviser:** The Committee will consider the appointment of its adviser to assist in its consideration of the Scottish Budget.

**Proposed future business**

At its next meeting on 19 September, it is expected that the Committee will consider its work programme.

**Local Government and Communities Committee  
12 September 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 3 in private.

**2. Budget scrutiny – appointment of adviser:** The Committee will consider whether to seek approval for the appointment of an adviser in connection with its scrutiny of the Scottish Budget 2008-09.

**3. Work programme:** The Committee will consider and agree its work programme.

**Proposed future business**

At its next meeting on 19 September, it is expected that the Committee will consider subordinate legislation. The Committee will also be briefed by Stewart Maxwell MSP, Minister for Communities and Sport, on his responsibilities.

**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](#)



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