

# Parliamentary briefing

1 January – 28 February 2018



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## **Key points**

- Parliamentary business commenced on 8 January 2018.
- Scotland's Place in Europe: People, Jobs and Investment was published.
- The consultation report and implementation plan for the Scottish National Investment Bank was published.

## **Key publications**

### **Reports**

- [Employment in Scotland's Seafood Processing Sector: UK, European Economic Area and Non-European Economic Area Nationals](#)
- [Developing the Young Workforce, Scotland's Youth Employment Strategy, Third Annual Progress Report, 2016-17.](#)
- [Budget \(Scotland\) Bill 2018-19 Supporting Document](#)
- [Scottish Expert Advisory Panel on the Collaborative Economy Report](#)
- [The 2017-18 Spring Budget Revision supporting document](#)
- [Scottish National Investment Bank Implementation Plan](#)
- [Scottish National Investment Bank Consultation Report](#)
- [The Scottish Government's Climate Change Plan, Third Report on Proposals and Policies 2018-2032 \(RPP3\)](#)
- [Climate Change Plan, The Third Report on Proposals and Policies, Written Statement](#)

### **Research & Statistics**

- [Scotland's Place in Europe: People, Jobs and Investment](#)
- [Scottish Expert Advisory Panel on the Collaborative Economy Evidence Paper](#)
- [Understanding the Scottish Rural Economy](#)
- [Scottish Local Government Financial Statistics 2016-17](#)
- [Scotland's Devolved Employment Services, Work First Scotland and Work Able Scotland, 2017, Quarters 1, 2 and 3](#)

### **Selected Open Consultations (closing date)**

- [Fees Charged for Applications under the Electricity Act 1989](#) (14 May)

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## In the Chamber

### **Civil Litigation (Expenses and Group Proceedings) (Scotland) Bill: Financial Resolution**

During a meeting of the Parliament, a motion was introduced in the name of Derek Mackay, on a financial resolution for the Civil Litigation (Expenses and Group Proceedings) (Scotland) Bill. Motion moved; “That the Parliament, for the purposes of any Act of the Scottish Parliament resulting from the Civil Litigation (Expenses and Group Proceedings) (Scotland) Bill, agrees to any expenditure of a kind referred to in Rule 9.12.3(b) of the Standing Orders arising in consequence of the Act.” There were six questions taken at this meeting. ([read more](#))

### **Robert Burns (Economic Potential)**

During a meeting of the Parliament, a member’s business debate in the name of Joan McAlpine, on the economic potential of Robert Burns. The debate was concluded without any question being put. Joan McAlpine (SNP) stated that It is now 15 years since the BBC programme “Burns the Brand” attempted to quantify in hard cash terms what the Scottish national bard contributes to Scotland’s contemporary economy. A World Bank economist was commissioned, who calculated that Burns made Scotland £157 million per annum in year-round tourism and merchandising, including the bonanza of the supper season, with all the spending that takes place on hospitality, whisky, haggis, kilt hire and even paying the piper. ([Read more](#))

### **Budget (Scotland) (No 2) Bill: Stage 1**

During a meeting of the Parliament, a motion was debated in the name of Derek Mackay, on stage 1 of the Budget (Scotland) (No 2) Bill. Derek MacKay (SNP) stated that The bill seeks approval for spending plans that will use the powers of this Parliament to build a fairer, more prosperous country and put the progressive values of this Government into action. The budget will invest in our public services, in our people and in our businesses to enable them to develop and thrive. We set out a bold and ambitious agenda in the programme for government, and the budget provides the resources that are necessary to deliver that vision. ([Read more](#))

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## **Islands (Scotland) Bill: Financial Resolution**

During a meeting of the Parliament, a motion was introduced in the name of Derek Mackay, on the financial resolution for the Islands (Scotland) Bill. Motion moved: 'That the Parliament, for the purposes of any Act of the Scottish Parliament resulting from the Islands (Scotland) Bill, agrees to any expenditure of a kind referred to in Rule 9.12.3(b) of the Parliament's Standing Orders arising in consequence of the Act.' ([Read more](#))

## **Budget (Scotland) (No 2) Bill: Stage 3**

During a meeting of the Parliament, a motion was debated in the name of Derek Mackay, on stage 3 of the Budget (Scotland) (No 2) Bill. Derek MacKay (SNP) stated that The bill is of huge importance to Scotland. The decisions that were made at this meeting will support our commitment to inclusive growth and provide support to our public services, to those that deliver those services, and to communities and individuals across Scotland. The bill seeks Parliament's approval for more than £1.2 billion of additional expenditure to build a fairer, more prosperous country and to put the progressive values of this Government into action. It is a bill that reflects our status as a Parliament of minorities. ([Read more](#))

## **In the Committees**

### **Draft Budget 2018-19**

The Finance and Constitution Committee met to take evidence on the Office of Budget Responsibility's "Economic and fiscal outlook" and "Devolved taxes forecast" reports, which were both published alongside the United Kingdom autumn statement in November. The committee were joined for this item by the OBR chairman, Robert Chote. ([Read more](#)).

### **Draft Budget 2018-19**

The Finance and Constitution Committee met in Aberdeen to to continue the committee's examination of the Scottish Government's draft budget for 2018-19. The workshop sessions sought to explore the impact of Brexit on the Government's local communities spending decision. There was also an opportunity for people from the north-east to tell the committee about not just issues that matter to them in regard to Brexit and the Scottish budget but wider concerns. ([read more](#)).

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## Financial Guidance and Claims Bill

The Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Committee met with Keith Brown, the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work, along with members of his team from the Scottish Government: Lorraine King, head of the consumer, competition and regulation unit; Denise Swanson, head of the access to justice unit; Greig Walker, a solicitor with the legal directorate; and John St Clair, a senior principal legal officer.

The cabinet secretary joined the committee to speak about a legislative consent memorandum on the Financial Guidance and Claims Bill, which is a piece of United Kingdom Parliament legislation. ([Read more](#))

## Scotland's Economic Performance

The Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Committee met to continue the inquiry on Scotland's economic performance. They were joined by a panel of witnesses. John McLaren from Scottish Trends and Ryan McQuigg, who is the policy and public affairs manager for Oxfam Scotland. They were also joined by Michael Jacobs, who is the director of the Institute for Public Policy Research commission on economic justice, and last but not least Craig Dalzell, who is the head of research at Common Weal. ([read more](#))

## Scotland's Economic Performance

The Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Committee met to continue the inquiry on Scotland's economic performance. For this meeting they were joined by, from the Scottish Fiscal Commission, David Wilson, who is the commissioner; Mairi Spowage, who is the deputy chief executive; John Ireland, who is the chief executive; and David Stone, who is the head of economy and income tax forecasting. ([read more](#))

## European Union (Withdrawal) Bill

The Finance and Constitution Committee met to take evidence on the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill as amended in the House of Commons. They heard from the Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe later in the morning. Before that, The committee were joined by Professor Aileen McHarg, professor of public law at the University of Strathclyde, and Professor Alan Page, professor of public law at the University of Dundee. ([read more](#))

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## Scotland's Economic Performance

The Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Committee met to continue the inquiry on Scotland's economic performance. They were joined by a panel of witnesses: Leah Hutcheon, who is the founder and chief executive officer of Appointedd; Karen Pickering, who is chair of the board of Page\Park Architects; Paddy Collins, who is CEO of the Aubin Group; and Alison Grieve, who is the CEO and inventor of G-Hold. The discussion began around the question; 'Looking back over the past 10 years at how the Scottish economy has performed on entrepreneurship and business growth and innovation in particular, how do you see matters developing as we move forward?' ([read more](#))

## Scottish Fiscal Commission (Revised Forecast)

The Finance and Constitution Committee met for an evidence session on the Scottish Fiscal Commission's revised forecasts, which were produced following policy changes that were announced the previous week at stage 1 of the Budget (Scotland) (No 2) Bill. They were joined for this session by Professor Alasdair Smith, who is one of the commissioners; David Wilson, who is also a commissioner; John Ireland, the chief executive; and David Stone, the head of economic and income tax forecasting. ([read more](#))

## Budget (Scotland) (No 2) Bill: Stage 2

The Finance and Constitution Committee met to take evidence on the Budget (Scotland) (No 2) Bill at stage 2. This item is intended to allow the committee to put questions on the bill and the amendments to the cabinet secretary and officials before we turn to formal stage 2 proceedings. They were joined by Derek Mackay, the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution. The cabinet secretary was accompanied by the Scottish Government officials John Nicholson, deputy director of financial scrutiny and outcomes, Graham Owenson, head of local government finance, and Jonathan Sewell, head of the income tax and tax strategy unit. ([read more](#))

## Trade Bill

The Finance and Constitution Committee met to take evidence on the United Kingdom Trade Bill and the associated Scottish Government legislative consent memorandum. They were joined for this session by Scottish Government officials Graham Fisher from the legal directorate, Luke McBratney from the constitution and UK relations division, and Stephen Sadler from the trade policy team. ([read more](#))