

Key points

- The Scottish Parliament term commenced on 3 September and began recess on 6 October.
- The Government's Programme for Scotland 2018-2019 was published.
- The Council of Economic Advisers published a Chair's Report on Inclusive Growth, Innovation and Fiscal Matters between 2016-2018.

Key publications

Policy

- [Delivering for today, investing for tomorrow: the Government's programme for Scotland 2018-2019](#)
- [Cyber resilience economic opportunity – key actions 2018-2021](#)

Announcements

- [Cupar Digital Improvement District](#)
- [Scotland's economy grows 0.5% in 2018 Quarter 2](#)
- [Labour Productivity Statistics, 2018 Quarter 1](#)
- [Investing in Scotland's Digital Future](#)
- [Edinburgh and South East City Region Deal](#)

Reports

- [Council of Economic Advisers: Chair's Report 2016-2018](#)
- [Collaborative economy report response: June 2018](#)
- [South of Scotland Enterprise Agency: Consultation Analysis Report](#)
- [European Regional Development Fund: annual implementation report 2017](#)
- [European Structural and Investment Funds 2000-2013: lists of grant amounts](#)
- [Scotland's role in the development of future UK trade arrangements](#)
- [Scottish National Investment Bank: consultation paper](#)
- [Autumn budget 2018-2019: supporting document](#)
- [European Union Funding in Scotland \(SPICe\)](#)
- [Labour Market Update: September 2018 \(SPICe\)](#)

Research & Statistics

- [Monthly economic brief: 2016 - 2018](#)
- [European Structural and Investment Funds: Operations funding](#)
- [New blueprint for rural economy: recommendations to Scottish Ministers](#)

Selected Open Consultations (closing date)

- [Scottish National Investment Bank](#) (31 October)
- [Local Governance Review: Democracy Matters: Your Community. Your ideas. Your Future.](#) (30 November)

In the Chamber

Programme for Government 2018-19 [4 September]

During a meeting of the Scottish Parliament, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon MSP introduced the Programme for Government 2018-19. ([Read more.](#))

Programme for Government 2018-19 [5 September]

During the continuing debate in the Chamber on the Programme for Government 2018-19, the Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Economy and Fair Work, Derek MacKay MSP introduced the focus of the Government on the wealth and wellbeing of community and the emphasis on boosting the economy. ([Read more.](#))

Productivity [13 September]

During First Minister's Question Time, Jackie Baillie MSP (Lab) asked the First Minister what action the Scottish Government is taking to improve productivity. Ms Sturgeon noted the Government's commitment to invest an additional £7 billion by 2026, over and above existing plans, in schools, hospitals, transport, digital connectivity and clean energy. ([Read more.](#))

Bank Closures' Impact on Local Businesses, Consumers and the Scottish Economy [18 September]

During a meeting of the Scottish Parliament, Gordon Lindhurst MSP (Con) raised a debate on the motion of Bank Closures quoting the recent report by the Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Committee. The Minister for Public Finance and Digital Economy, Kate Forbes MSP responded with a call for the UK Government to review whether an independent impact assessment should be carried out on local economics and need for more thorough consultation to shape the decision banks have made. ([Read more.](#))

Tay Cities Deal [20 September]

During First Minister's Question Time, Shona Robison MSP (SNP) asked the First Minister is she shared concerns over reports that the UK Government were planning to renege on the Tay Cities Deal, reducing their contribution by £80 million. Nicola Sturgeon noted that the Scottish Government continues its support and will continue to encourage the UK Government to match the Scottish Government's investment in the Tay Cities Deal. ([Read more.](#))

In the Committees

European Structural and Investment Funds Inquiry [11 September]

During a meeting of the Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee, the Committee met for the inquiry on European Structural and Investment Funds. Members heard contributions from the new Minister for Trade, Investment and Innovation, Ivan McKee MSP and David Anderson, Head of the Scottish Government's European Structural Funds and State Aid Division. Mr McKee noted that the European Union's aims of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth towards the Europe 2020 targets, and the Scottish Government's sustainable, inclusive growth ambitions, as set out in the national performance framework, neatly align. ([Read more.](#))

Transient Visitor Levy [18 September]

During a meeting of the Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee, there was the first call for evidence session on the introduction of a transient visitor levy – also known as a tourist tax. The Committee heard from witnesses from across Scottish local authorities Councillor Gail Macgregor, resources spokesperson for COSLA; Councillor Bill Lobban, convener of Highland Council; Councillor Adam McVey, leader of the City of Edinburgh Council; and Councillor Jenny Laing, co-leader of Aberdeen City Council. ([Read more.](#))