

Key points

- The Scottish Parliament term commenced on 23 April and began recess on 30 June.
- The National Economic Forum was held on 1 May 2019.

Key publications

Policy

- [Scotland: A Trading Nation](#)

Announcements & Statements

- [State of the Economy: June 2019](#)
- [Infrastructure Commission call for evidence: Scottish Government Response May 2019](#)
- [22nd National Economic Forum: First Minister's Speech](#)
- [Wellbeing Economy Governments \(WEGo\) policy labs: First Minister's Speech](#)
- [EU Citizens staying in Scotland: package of support](#)

Reports & Factsheets

- [Community benefits from onshore renewable energy developments](#)
- [Borderlands Growth Deal: heads of terms agreement](#)
- [Under Construction: Building the future of the sector in Scotland](#)
- [The Scottish Government's Medium-Term Financial Strategy, May 2019](#) (SPICe)
- [Scottish National Investment Bank Bill](#) (SPICe)

Research & Statistics

- [Scotland's export performance monitor](#)
- [Scotland's devolved employment services: statistical summary](#)
- [Regional employment patterns in Scotland: statistics from the Annual Population Survey 2018](#)
- [Food and drink supply chain and transport industry: evidence report](#)
- [Labour Market Update: June 2019](#) (SPICe)
- [Scottish Vacant and Derelict Land Survey: 2018](#)

Minutes

- [Scotland CAN DO: Business Innovation Forum minutes: March 2019](#)
- [Scottish Business Growth Group Meetings and minutes: FOI release](#)
- [National Economic Forum: May 2019](#)

Selected Open Consultations (closing date)

- [Short-Term Lets: Consultation](#) (19 July)
- [National Islands Plan and Island Communities Impact Assessments](#) (26 July)

In the Chamber

Green New Deal [24 April]

In a meeting of the Scottish Parliament, Patrick Harvie MSP (Green) brought forward a motion on a green new deal for Scotland for debate. He outlined that the Green New Deal “is not a single list of prescriptive policies. It comes under a set of key principles that would not only create the conditions for private investment, but mobilise the power of the state through regulation, fiscal and monetary powers and public and community ownership to address in a coherent way the ecological and social crises that we face, and build an economy that is fair, sustainable and fit for the 21st century.” ([Read more](#)).

The Place Principal [14 May]

In a meeting of the Scottish Parliament, Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government, Aileen Campbell MSP (SNP) brought forward a debate on adopting the Place Principle. The Cabinet Secretary notes that the Principle “asks that all partners responsible for providing services and looking after assets in a place work and plan together to support inclusive and sustainable economic growth and create more successful places.” ([Read more](#)).

Expanding Scotland’s Railways [29 May]

In a meeting of the Scottish Parliament, a members’ business motion was raised by Mark Ruskell MSP (Green) on expanding Scotland’s railways. Mr Ruskell congratulated the first round of successful applicants of the Local Rail Development Fund, and debated the motion ahead of the forthcoming strategic transport project review ([Read more](#)).

A Trading Nation [29 May]

In a meeting of the Scottish Parliament, Minister for Trade, Investment and Innovation, Ivan McKee MSP (SNP) raised a motion for debate on the publication of ‘[A Trading Nation – A Plan for Growing Scotland’s Exports](#)’. He noted that the Scottish Government “recognises the critical importance of internationalisation to our economic strategy and to driving sustainable economic growth—inclusive growth—as defined through our economic action plan.” He opened the debate to input suggestions about what the Government can do to grow Scotland’s exports. ([Read more](#)).

South of Scotland Enterprise Bill: Stage 3 [5 June]

In a meeting of the Scottish Parliament, MSPs debated Stage 3 amendments of the South of Scotland Enterprise Bill on Section 5 – Aims, Section 6 – Action Plan, Section 7 – General Powers, Section 14 – Annual Report and Schedule 1 – Members and Staff. Speaking on behalf of the Scottish Government was the Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy, Fergus Ewing MSP (SNP). ([Read more](#)).

In the Committees

Scottish National Investment Bank Bill: Stage 1 [7 May]

During a meeting of the Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee, the Committee held their first evidence session on the Scottish National Investment Bank (SNIB) Bill. Benny Higgins, Strategic Adviser on the establishment of the SNIB; and Paul Brewer and Alan McFarlane, former members of the Advisory Group on the implementation plan for the SNIB, were the first to give evidence. They discussed the 21 recommendations of the Advisory Group and the supply and demand of the Scottish economy for the SNIB. ([Read more](#)).

South of Scotland Enterprise Bill: Stage 2 [8 May]

During a meeting of the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee, the Committee began to consider Stage 2 of the South of Scotland Enterprise Bill. ([Read more](#)).

South of Scotland Enterprise Bill: Stage 2 [8 May]

During a meeting of the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee, the Committee continued to consider Stage 2 of the South of Scotland Enterprise Bill. They were joined by Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy, Fergus Ewing MSP (SNP), Karen Jackson is South of Scotland Economic Development Team Leader; Sandra Reid, Bill Team Leader; Felicity Cullen, Scottish Government Directorate for Legal Services; and Fraser Gough, Parliamentary Counsel. ([Read more](#)).

Article 50 (International Trade) [9 May]

During a meeting of the Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee, the Committee took evidence on Article 50 negotiations on international trade under its inquiry into the negotiation’s implications for Scotland. The committee heard evidence from Minister for Trade, Investment and Innovation, Ivan McKee MSP (SNP) and Reuben Aitken, Deputy Director, Trade Policy at the Scottish Government. ([Read more](#)).

Scottish National Investment Bank Bill: Stage 1 [14 May]

During a meeting of the Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee, the Committee held their first evidence session on the Scottish National Investment Bank (SNIB) Bill. The Committee heard evidence from Professor

Mariana Mazzucato, Director of the Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose at University College London, and is a member of the Scottish Government's Council of Economic Advisers; and Laurie Macfarlane, Head of Patient Finance at the institute. They were asked if the 21 recommendations from the Advisory Group had been reflected in the SNIB Bill and the Bank's mission. ([Read more](#)).

Trade Negotiations [15 May]

During a meeting of the Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee, the Committee held an evidence session on the Trade Negotiations with Ivan McKee MSP, the Minister for Trade, Investment and Innovation, and Stephen Sadler, Head of Trade Strategy, Scottish Government. Mr McKee noted that "if the UK is to create an independent trade policy, there is a huge amount to do. It is therefore essential that the devolved Administrations and legislatures play a full part in that work and that the voice of Scotland's commercial and trade interests be heard." ([Read more](#)).

Scottish National Investment Bank Bill: Stage 1 [21 May]

During a meeting of the Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee, the Committee held their first evidence session on the Scottish National Investment Bank (SNIB) Bill. The Committee heard evidence from Professor Lynne Cadenhead, Chair, Women's Enterprise Scotland; Linda Hanna, Managing Director, Scottish Economic Development, Scottish Enterprise; and David Alexander, Chief Executive and co-founder, Mydex CIC. They were asked their interpretation of the Bill and mission of the SNIB. ([Read more](#)).

Scottish National Investment Bank Bill: Stage 1 [28 May]

During a meeting of the Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee, the Committee held another evidence session on the SNIB Bill. The Committee heard evidence from Graeme Sands, Business banking, Corporate and Mid-Market Director at Clydesdale Bank; Andrew Castell, Partner, Par Equity; Jock Millican, Investment Director, Equity Gap; David Ovens, Chief Operating Officer, Archangel Investors; and David Grahame, Chief Executive, LINC Scotland. They were asked of the demand in the market for investment funds. ([Read more](#)).

Scottish National Investment Bank Bill: Stage 1 [4 June]

During a meeting of the Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee, the Committee held another evidence session on the SNIB Bill. The Committee heard evidence from Rob Hunter, Director of Strategy, Development Bank of Wales; and Kerry Sharp, Director, Scottish Investment Bank, Scottish Enterprise. They were firstly asked the impact of the British Business Bank on activities in Scotland and Wales. ([Read more](#)).

Scottish National Investment Bank Bill: Stage 1 [11 June]

During a meeting of the Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee, the Committee held another evidence session on the SNIB Bill. The Committee heard evidence from Derek Mackay, the Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Economy and Fair Work; David Wilson, Programme Director, Scottish National Investment Bank Directorate; Rachel van Kempen, Head of Finance and Resourcing, Scottish National Investment Bank Directorate; and Fraser Gough, Parliamentary Counsel Office, Scottish Government. ([Read more](#)).

Structural Fund Priorities (Post-Brexit Funding) [12 June]

During a meeting of the Finance and Constitution Committee, the Committee held a round-table evidence session on the funding of EU structural fund priorities in Scotland post-Brexit. The meeting heard feedback from recent structural fund workshop visits in Inverness, Paisley and Dunfermline. The committee then heard evidence from witnesses Dugald Craig, Colleges Partnership; Kate Still, Prince's Trust on behalf of the Young People's Consortium; Susan Love, Federation of Small Businesses; Ross Johnston, Scottish Natural Heritage; Nora Uhrig, Equality and Human Rights Commission and Ruchir Shah, Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisation. ([Read more](#)).

Structural Fund Priorities (Post-Brexit Funding) [19 June]

During a meeting of the Finance and Constitution Committee, the Committee held a round-table evidence session on the funding of EU structural fund priorities in Scotland post-Brexit. The meeting focused on three themes: 1) Allocation of funding, 2) Process and administration and 3) Outcomes. The Committee heard from Professor David Bell, University of Stirling, Stuart Bews, Aberdeen City Council, Malcolm Burr, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Gill Lawrie, Angus LEADER Local Action Group, Roddy MacDonald, Industrial Communities Alliance, Angus MacLeod, Highlands and Islands European Partnership and Lynn Murray, Zero Waste Scotland. ([Read more](#)). ([Written submission from Prof. David Bell](#))