

Key points

- The Scottish Parliament term commenced on 7 January and began recess on 6 April.
- The National Economic Forum was held on 1 May 2019.
- The Local Government and Communities Committee heard evidence on the development of City Region Deals.

Key publications

Policy

- [Europe 2020: Scotland's National Reform Programme 2019](#)
- [Scotland: A Trading Nation](#)

Announcements

- [Brexit and Scotland's Future: First Minister statement](#)
- [Scotland's economy and public spending: implications of UK Spring Statement](#)
- [22nd National Economic Forum: First Minister's speech](#)

Reports / Factsheets

- [The UK Government's EU Settlement Scheme](#) (SPICe)
- [Scottish Government Infrastructure Investment](#) (SPICe)
- [No-deal Brexit: economic implications for Scotland](#)
- [Economy publications: list](#)
- [State of the Economy: February 2019](#)
- [Planning, economy, place: literature review](#)
- [Place Principle: introduction](#)
- [European Structural and Investment Funds: forms and guidance 2014-2020](#)
- [Youth Employment Initiative: evaluation reports 2014-2020](#)
- [Ayrshire Growth Deal: heads of terms agreement](#)
- [Tourism Tax: evidence from the national discussion](#)
- [A National Investment Bank for Scotland: factsheet](#)
- [Stage 1 Report on the South of Scotland Enterprise Bill](#)
- [Scottish National Investment Bank Bill: Stage 1](#)
- [Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee: Business Support](#)

Research & Statistics

- [Scotland's Exports 2017](#) (SPICe)
- [Labour Market Update: March 2019](#) (SPICe)
- [The Gender Pay Gap: Facts and Figures – 2018](#) (SPICe)
- [Scottish National Investment Bank consultation: analysis of responses](#)
- [Brexit and businesses: sectoral impact analysis](#)
- [Scotland's export performance monitor](#)

Minutes

- [Enterprise and Skills Strategic Board minutes: September 2018](#)
- [Scottish Business Growth group minutes: September 2018](#)
- [Strategic Labour Market Group: meeting papers October 2018](#)
- [Enterprise and Skills Strategic Board minutes: November 2018](#)

- [Ministerial Trade Board minutes: November 2018](#)
- [Scotland CAN DO: Business Innovation Forum minutes: December 2018](#)
- [Standing Council on Europe minutes: December 2018](#)
- [Council of Economic Advisors minutes: December 2018](#)
- [National Economic Forum: May 2019](#)

Selected Open Consultations (closing date)

- [Devolved Taxes: A Policy Framework](#) (6 June 2019)
- [Scottish Sea Fisheries National Discussion Paper](#) (7 June 2019)
- [National Islands Plan and Island Communities Impact Assessments](#) (6 July 2019)

In the Chamber

City Deals and Regional Economic Partnerships [22 January]

In a meeting of the Scottish Parliament, Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity, Michael Matheson MSP (SNP) opened a debate on Scotland's city region deals and the emerging regional economic partnerships that have been inspired by them. He cited the Local Government and Communities Committee [recent inquiry into city region deals](#) and its recommendation. ([Read more](#)).

Fair Work [12 March]

In a meeting of the Scottish Parliament, Minister for Business, Fair Work and Skills, Jamie Hepburn MSP (SNP) opened a debate on the Fair Work convention's ambition to make Scotland a fair work nation by 2025. He noted that the vision that is set out in its framework to embed fair work in workplaces across Scotland by 2025, which is built on the five dimensions that it identified, with fair work offering an effective voice, opportunity, security, fulfilment and respect. ([Read more](#)).

United Kingdom Spring Statement (Implications for Economy and Public Spending) [19 March]

During a meeting on Parliament, The Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Economy and Fair Work, Derek Mackay MSP (SNP), discussed the implications for the economy and public spending for the Scottish Government following Westminster spring statement. The speech including forecast of the GDP growth and the implications of UK's exit from the European Union. ([Read more](#))

South of Scotland Enterprise Bill: Stage 1 [26 March]

The Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy, Fergus Ewing MSP (SNP) opened the stage 1 debate on the South of Scotland Enterprise Bill. He noted that in 2016, 'the First Minister announced an end-to-end review of the enterprise and skills system. One of the review's key recommendations was to establish a new enterprise agency for the south of Scotland. This bill establishes that new body: an organisation that will focus on inclusive growth and supporting a diverse and resilient economy, that is able to respond to the different and distinct rural economy of the south of Scotland, and that is welcomed by the south.' ([Read more](#)).

Green New Deal [24 April]

During a meeting of the Parliament, Patrick Harvie MSP (Green) introduction a debate on a green new deal for Scotland. Previous debates informed work of the Scottish Green Party's 'Jobs in Scotland's New Economy' report and cited previous roundtable discussions of economic stimuli that can work with markets and competition to achieve transformation. ([Read more](#)).

In the Committees

City Region Deals [27 February]

During a meeting of the Local Government and Communities Committee, the Convenor noted that the Committee would keep a watching brief on the development of City Region Deals. They took evidence from the Glasgow City Region Deal, which was the first Scottish deal to be signed off. The Committee heard evidence from Councillor Susan Aitken, Chair of the Glasgow City Region Cabinet and Leader of Glasgow City Council;

Kevin Rush, Director of Regional Economic Growth for Glasgow City Region; Joyce White, Chief Executive of West Dunbartonshire Council; and Graham Thom, Managing Director, and John Nolan, Associate Director, from SQW Ltd. ([Read more](#)).

City Region Deals [13 March]

The Local Government and Communities Committee heard evidence from 'more recent deals' to update on the status of deals and to discuss the approach to their governance structures. The Committee heard from Nikki Bridle, Chief Executive and Garry Dallas, Strategic Director of Place, Clackmannanshire Council; Carol Beattie, Chief Executive of Stirling Council; Councillor Shona Haslam, Leader of Scottish Borders Council and representing the Edinburgh and South-East Scotland City Region Deal; Andy Nichol, Head of Programme Management Office for the Edinburgh and South-East Scotland City Region Deal; and Jim Valentine, a member of the management group for the Tay Cities Deal. ([Read more](#)).

Immigration Inquiry [4 April]

During a meeting of the Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee, the Committee took an evidence session on their Immigration Inquiry. The Committee heard from members of the Scottish Government's expert advisor group on migration and population: Professor Christina Boswell, Professor David Bell and Professor Rebecca Kay. Questions included the impact, over time, of the 30-50% reduction of migrants for Scotland following the proposal of a new immigration system after Brexit ([Read more](#)).

Funding of EU Structural Fund Priorities in Scotland, post-Brexit

The purpose of the above inquiry is to explore the experience of lead partners, delivery agents and beneficiaries to help inform the design of any future funding of structural priorities in Scotland post-Brexit. The Committee invited written responses to a number of questions as set out in the call for evidence. The [following responses](#) were received.