

Key points

- The Scottish Parliament was in Recess on from 31 March to 15 April (inclusive)

Key publications

Policy

Announcements

- [Brexit Stakeholder Engagement Fund](#)
- [The consequence of UK choice on Scotland](#)
- [Fintech investment reaches £37m](#)
- [£90.2 million City Region Deal for Stirling and Clackmannanshire](#)
- [Driving forward the rural economy: Protecting rural Scotland from Brexit](#)
- [Labour Productivity Statistics, 2017 Quarter 4](#)
- [Gross Expenditure on Research and Development 2016](#)
- [Empowering Communities: £20 million to tackle poverty and inequality](#)

Reports

- [Brexit: Protecting What Matters: What's at stake for individuals in the Brexit talks](#)
- [No One Left Behind: Next Steps for the Integration and Alignment of Employability Support in Scotland](#)
- [Scottish Government Sixth Annual Report on the Implementation and Operation of Part 3 \(Financial Provisions\) of the Scotland Act 2012. Second Report on the Implementation of the Scotland Act 2016](#)
- [Infrastructure Investment Plan 2015 - Progress Report for 2017](#)
- [A Fairer Scotland for Disabled People - Working for change](#)
- [Fair Start Scotland Business Regulation Impact Assessment](#)
- [Scottish Government Urban Rural Classification 2016](#)
- [Glasgow 2014 - Final Legacy Report - Summary Findings - April 2018](#)
- [Technological change and the Scottish labour market](#)
- [Tourism in Scotland: The Economic Contribution of the Sector](#)

Research & Statistics

- [UK Trade Policy and Brexit \(SPICe\)](#)
- [Local Government Finance: Facts and Figures 2013-14 to 2018-2019 \(SPICe\)](#)
- [Labour Market Update May 2018 \(SPICe\)](#)
- [Gross Domestic Product \(GDP\): 4th Quarter 2017 \(SPICe\)](#)
- [The Impact of Brexit on Scotland's Growth Sectors \(SPICe\)](#)
- [The Gender Pay Gap: Facts and Figures – 2017 \(SPICe\)](#)
- [Digital Economy Business Survey 2017](#)

- [Poverty and Inequality in Scotland: 2014-2017](#)
- [Education Maintenance Allowances 2016-17](#)
- [Scotland's Devolved Employment Services Work First Scotland and Work Able Scotland, 2017/18](#)
- [Equality Impact Assessment Summary: The Land and Buildings Transaction Tax \(First- Time Buyer Relief\) \(Scotland\) Order 2018](#)
- [Regional Employment Patterns in Scotland: Statistics from the Annual Population Survey 2017](#)

Selected Open Consultations (closing date)

- [A Consultation on Land and Buildings Transaction Tax - Property Investment Funds](#) (2 August 2018)

In the Chamber

Local Government Finance (Scotland) Order 2018 [Draft]

During a meeting of parliament, a motion is debated in the name of Cabinet Secretary of Finance and the Constitution, Derek Mackay (SNP), on the draft Local Government Finance (Scotland) Order 2018. The purpose of the debate on the local government finance order was to seek Parliament's approval of the guaranteed allocations of revenue funding to individual local authorities for 2018-19. The debate also sought agreement to the allocation of additional funding for 2017-18 that had been identified since the 2017 order was approved at this time last year. ([read more](#))

Land and Buildings Transaction Tax (Relief from Additional Amount) (Scotland) Bill: Financial Resolution

During a meeting of Parliament, a motion was proposed in the name of Derek Mackay (Cabinet Secretary of Finance and the Constitution) (SNP), on a financial resolution for the Land and Buildings Transaction Tax (Relief from Additional Amount) (Scotland) Bill. The following motion was moved; That the Parliament, for the purposes of any Act of the Scottish Parliament resulting from the Land and Buildings Transaction Tax (Relief from Additional Amount) (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](#))

South of Scotland Economic Partnership

During a meeting of Parliament, a statement was made by Cabinet Secretary for the Economy, Fair Work and Jobs, Keith Brown (SNP) on the South of Scotland economic partnership. Mr Brown had the opportunity to update members on the progress that the Government are making to deliver a new enterprise agency for the south of Scotland. One of the key recommendations from last year's Enterprise and Skills Review was a commitment to a new agency supporting inclusive economic growth in the south. The review recognised the unique circumstances of the South of Scotland and its strengths, opportunities and challenges. It also acknowledged the benefits that a new agency could deliver by developing a deeper understanding of the south of Scotland and tailoring a response informed by that understanding. ([read more](#))

City Region Deals

During a meeting of Parliament, a debate was held in the name of Bob Doris (SNP), on City Region Deals. The title of the debate, and of the recent Local Government and Communities Committee report is "[City Regions: Deal or No Deal?](#)". The committee discussed the growth in the number and the budgets for regional economic partnerships. The committee expressed interest in seeing further information on the rationale, the prioritisation and the value for money in relation to city region deals, including the progress to date of the deals in delivering job creation and economic growth. They also noted their wish to examine the structure and governance of city region deals throughout Scotland. ([read more](#))

Local Taxation

During a meeting of Parliament, a debate was held in the name of Andy Wightman (Green), on ceasing council taxation. An amendment from the Scottish Government was discussed that stated it is "open to further dialogue on options for local tax reform." ([read more](#))

Negotiations on the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill

During a meeting of Parliament, a statement was given by the Minister for UK Negotiations for Scotland's Place in Europe, Michael Russell (SNP) on an update on negotiations on the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill. Mr Russell noted that the negotiations have become particularly intense over the past few weeks. The Joint Ministerial Committee on European Union negotiations met on 8 March and the Joint Ministerial Committee plenary met on 14 March. ([read more](#))

Scottish National Investment Bank

During a meeting of Parliament, a debate was held, in the name of Keith Brown (Cabinet Secretary for the Economy, Fair Work and Jobs) (SNP), on the Scottish National Investment Bank. It is just over a year since the Scottish Government's Council of Economic Advisers identified the importance of long-term patient capital in supporting economic growth. Building on that, it was announced in the 2017-18 programme for Government plans to establish a Scottish National Investment Bank. ([read more](#))

In the Committees

Scotland's Economic Performance

The Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Committee met with Alastair Sim, Director, Universities Scotland; Sandy Finlayson, Chair, Converge Challenge and Professor Ferdinand von Prondzynski, Principal, Robert Gordon University to take part in the Committee's inquiry into Scotland's Economic Performance. The discussion centred around the Scottish economy's performance over the past 10 years, in particular about innovation and development. ([read more](#))

UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Legal Continuity) (Scotland) Bill: Stage 1

The Finance and Constitution Committee met to take evidence on the UK Withdrawal from the European

Union (Legal Continuity) (Scotland) Bill, which was introduced the previous week. The committee heard from two panels of witnesses. The first panel consisted of Michael Clancy, Director of Law Reform, Law Society of Scotland; Dr Kirsty Hughes, Director, Scottish Centre on European Relations; Professor Aileen McHarg, University of Strathclyde; and Professor Alan Page, Professor of Public Law at the University of Dundee. ([read more](#))

Scotland's Economic Performance

The Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Committee met with Sir Harry Burns, Professor Sara Carter and Professor Sir Anton Muscatelli to discuss the Committee's inquiry into Scotland's economic performance. The Council of Economic Advisers has met regularly since 2016 in its present incarnation, and the focus has been very much on Scotland's economic strategy. Specifically, they have focused on inclusive growth and, more recently, on the establishment of the National Investment Bank. They have also focused on Scotland's economic performance since the financial crisis of 2008-09 and on the policy responses that were appropriate and could be considered following the crisis. Additionally, they have focused on the future risks to the economy—in particular, over the next 10 years and specifically the impacts of Brexit. ([read more](#))

UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Legal Continuity) (Scotland) Bill: Stage 2

The Finance and Constitution Committee met to take evidence on the UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Legal Continuity) (Scotland) Bill. Dean Lockhart (Con) began proceedings on Amendment 115 which seeks to clarify the scope and application of section 11; 'Dealing with deficiencies arising from UK withdrawal'. ([read more](#))

Scotland's Economic Performance

The Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Committee met with Dr Diane Harbison, CEO, Stratified Medicine Scotland; Dr David Bunton, CEO, ReproCELL Europe; and Claire Mack, CEO, Scottish Renewables to discuss the Committee's inquiry into Scotland's economic performance. The discussion centred around Scotland's economic performance over the past 10 years. ([read more](#))

Budget (Scotland) Act 2017 Amendment Regulations 2018 [Draft]

The Finance and Constitution Committee met for consideration of a Scottish statutory instrument that seeks to amend the Budget (Scotland) Act 2017. Firstly, the Committee held an evidence-taking session with Derek Mackay, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution, and Scott Mackay, Head of Finance Co-ordination, Scottish Government. ([read more](#))

Scottish Landfill Tax (Standard Rate and Lower Rate) Order 2018

The Finance and Constitution Committee met for consideration of a statutory instrument that seeks to revise the landfill tax rates and bands for 2018-19. Firstly, the Committee held an evidence-taking session with Derek Mackay, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Constitution and David Kerrouchi, Policy Adviser, Scottish Government. ([read more](#))

Scotland's Economic Performance

The Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Committee held two round-table sessions. The Committee was joined by Mark Baxter, Galliford Try Investments; Stephen Good, Construction Scotland; Annie Gunner Logan, Coalition of Care and Support Providers in Scotland; Graeme Jones, Scottish Financial Enterprise, Dr

Donald Macaskill, Scottish Care; Dr Peter Mowforth, INDEZ; Joshua Ryan-Saha, The Data Lab; Louise Smith, HM Treasury; Emil Stickland, Thrive Digital; Chris van der Kuyl, 4J Studios and Alastair Wylie, CCG (Scotland). ([read more](#))

Scotland's Economic Performance

The Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Committee met with Paul Sheerin, CEO, Scottish Engineering; Karen Betts, CEO, Scotch Whisky Association; Neil Francis, Interim Managing Director, Scottish Development International; James Brodie, Director and Scotland and China Business Adviser, China-Britain Business Council; and Clare Slipper, Political Affairs Manager, NFU Scotland to discuss the Committee's inquiry into Scotland's economic performance. The discussion focused on Scotland's competitiveness in the international market: 'Where is Scotland most and least competitive internationally?' ([read more](#))

Scotland's Economic Performance

The Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Committee met with the Rt Hon Greg Clark, the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and Jenny Bates, Director of European Union Exit and Economic Partnerships, UK Government. The discussion focused on "Industrial Strategy: Building a Britain for the Future". ([read more](#))

Impact of Bank Closures

The Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Committee met to commence taking evidence on the impact of bank closures. They met with Pete Cheema, CEO, Scottish Grocers Federation; Tim McCormack and Ferhan Ashiq, shop owners; Barry McCulloch, Senior Policy Advisor, FSB Scotland and Phil Prentice, Chief Officer, Scotland's Towns Partnership. ([read more](#))

National Performance Framework

The Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Committee met with Keith Brown, Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work, Gary Gillespie, Chief Economist, Scottish Government and Carol Tannahill, Chief Social Policy Adviser, Scottish Government. The Cabinet Secretary answered the following questions during the session: What evaluation has there been of the national performance framework over the past decade? Have there been any reviews on, or has any consideration been given to, improvements in how economic development and public policy are delivered? ([read more](#))

European Structural and Investment Funds

The Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Committee met to begin the European Structural and Investment Fund inquiry. The Committee met with their first panel of witnesses: Iain Scott, CFO, Scottish Enterprise; Martin Fairbairn, COO, Scottish Further and Higher Education Funding Council; Carroll Buxton, Regional Development Director, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Gordon McGuinness, Director of Industry and Enterprise Networks, Skills Development Scotland. The discussions focussed on specific instances of European structural funds being of assistance in Scotland in supporting inclusive growth. ([read more](#))

European Structural and Investment Funds

The Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Committee met to continue their European Structural and Investment Funds inquiry. The committee met with Professor John Bachtler, Head of the European Policies Research Centre, University of Strathclyde; Linda Stewart, Director of European and International Development,

University of the Highlands and Islands; Robin Smail, European Institute of Public Administration and Professor Steve Fothergill, Sheffield Hallam University. ([read more](#))

Scotland's Economic Performance

The Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Committee met for the continuation of the inquiry into Scotland's economic performance. The committee met with the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work, Keith Brown, and Scottish Government officials: Mary McAllan, Director for Economic Development; Gary Gillespie, Chief Economist; Sam Anson, Deputy Director, Economic Policy; and Hugh McAloon, Head of Fair Work and skills. ([read more](#))