

Makkin yer voice heard in the Scottish Pairlament



The Scottish Pairlament an You

العلاقة بين مجلس النواب الاسكتلندي وبينكم و أثره عليكم

স্কটিশ পার্লামেন্ট এবং আপনি

你与苏格兰议会

The Scottish Parliament and You

Pàrlamaid na h-Alba agus Thusa

সকলকেই তা সমস্ত আওতা

سکاتش پارلیمنٹ اور آپ

The Scottish Pairlament is here tae mak a difference tae yer life, whitiver ye dae an whauriver ye bide in Scotland.

This leaflet tells ye about the Pairlament, whit it can dae for ye an hoo ye can mak yer voice heard.

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Scottish Democracy in Action

Whit for shud I get involved?

The Scottish Pairlament maks laws an decisions on monie issues that affecks yer life. The issues that it can deal wi is kent as **devolvit maitters** an the main anes is ...

- Agriculture, forestry an fisheries
- Economic development
- Education
- Environment
- Health an social services
- Hoosin
- Law an order
- Sport an the airts
- Tourism
- Transport

Tae mak Scotland wark for ye, the Scottish Pairlament needs tae ken yer views on thir issues.



Issues sic as defence, employment law, genetics, immigration, international affairs, pensions an social security is kent as **reservit maitters** an is dealt wi by the Unitit Kingdom Pairlament in London. The Scottish Pairlament can debate reservit maitters but canna mak laws on them.

Hoo can I get involved?

There monie weys tae get involved wi the Scottish Pairlament.

Tae hae yer say ye can:

- Vote in the Scottish Pairlament elections
- Contack yer electit representatives
- Contribute tae the wark o committees
- Submit a petition
- Jine a Cross-Party Group
- Get involved in committee events
- Tak part in an on-line colloque
- Staund as a candidate for election

Tae find oot whit's happenin in the Pairlament ye can:

- Contack the Scottish Pairlament Public Information Service
- Luik til the Scottish Pairlament wabsite www.scottish.parliament.uk
- Visit yer local Pairtner Library
- Attend a debate or a committee meetin
- Visit the Scottish Pairlament Visitor Centre in Edinburgh
- Watch debates live on the internet at www.scottishparliamentlive.com



Wha are the MSPs an whit can they dae for me?

MSPs are **M**embers o the **S**cottish **P**airlament. They mak laws an decisions on devolvit maitters.

Ivery 4 year elections til the Scottish Pairlament is hauden. In the election fowk in Scotland vote for candidates an the candidates that wins become MSPs.

There are 129 MSPs, made up o 73 constituency MSPs an 56 regional MSPs. Ye are representit by 1 constituency MSP an 7 regional MSPs.

Yer MSPs need tae ken whit maitters tae ye tae help the Scottish Pairlament wark for ye, suppose ye didna vote for them.

Gin ye contact an MSP anent something that concerns ye they micht:



- speak in a debate on a maitter ye hae raised
- introduce a Bill tae chynge the law
- lodge a motion for debate in the Pairlament
- speir the Scottish Executive anent a maitter ye hae raised
- lodge an amendment tae a Bill
- refer ye til anither bodie or organisation
- advise ye that nae faurer action can be taen

Ye can tryst tae meet yer MSPs at the Pairlament, in their local office or throu their regular surgeries in yer local area.

Tae find oot wha yer MSPs are an hoo tae contact them, ye can luik on the Scottish Pairlament website, speir at yer local Pairtner Library or contact the Public Information Service (details is on the hinderend o this leaflet).

Whit for contact a committee?

Committees cairries oot some o the mair specialised wark o the Pairlament an wants tae ken yer views anent the subjects they are discussin.

Ilka committee is made up o 5 tae 15 MSPs. The MSPs is selectit tae refleck the balance o the sindry political pairties an independent MSPs in the Pairlament.

Monie o the committees deal wi specific devolvit areas sic as the environment or health an micht speir the Scottish Executive anent their wark an policies in thir areas. Ither committees luiks intil things sic as the rinnin o the Pairlament or the effeck o European laws on Scotland.



Committees taks tent tae evidence anent Bills gaun throu the Pairlament or anent an issue they are speirin oot. Forby, they wale throu Bills in detail an vote on amendments tae Bills.

Ye can scribeve til a committee giein yer pynt o view anent an issue, a speirin or a Bill. They micht bid ye tae come alang an speak til the committee.

Whiles committees gaes on fack-findin visits til places that is relevant tae their wark. Gin ye are pairt o a group that micht be o interest tae a committee, ye cud bid them tae meet in wi ye.

Individuals or organisations wi specialist ken o onie o the devolvit maitters can register as potential advisers tae the committees. Advisers helps the committees wi their speirins.

There ae committee in particular that gies ye a braw inlat tae get involved, the Public Petitions Committee.

Whit for submit a petition?

A petition is a signit statement speirin the Pairlament tae:

- luik intil a maitter o public interest or concern
- or
- amend existin laws or introduce new laws.

Oniebodie can submit a petition til the Scottish Pairlament Public Petitions Committee.

Efter the Pairlament has receivit yer petition the Public Petitions Committee will luik intil it an decide whit tae dae neist.



The committee micht:

- bid ye tae come in an speak til the committee
- speir anither committee or the Scottish Executive tae luik intil yer petition
- suggest that yer petition is debatit in the Pairlament
- agree tae tak nae faurer action an advise ye o this.

Monie petitions has resultit in action, includin chynge in the law.

There a suggestit format for submittin petitions, an fu details is available on the Pairlament's wabsite an fae the Public Information Service. **Ye can submit a petition in onie language.**

The Scottish Pairlament hosts petitions on its wabsite yaisin a system cried e-petitioner. Ye can yaise e-petitioner tae support an comment anent the issues mintit in petitions an read ithir fowk's comments. For mair speirins anent e-petitioning please see www.scottish.parliament.uk/e-petitions/index.htm

Hoo can I hae ma say

Get involved in a Cross-Party Group



Cross-Party Groups gies an inlat for MSPs, individuals an external organisations tae forgather an discuss a shared interest or cause. Cross-Party Groups is concerned wi a wide reenge o devolvit an reservit maitters, for example asthma or international development.

Haund in a petition til the Public Petitions Committee



Scrieve til yer MSPs or a committee



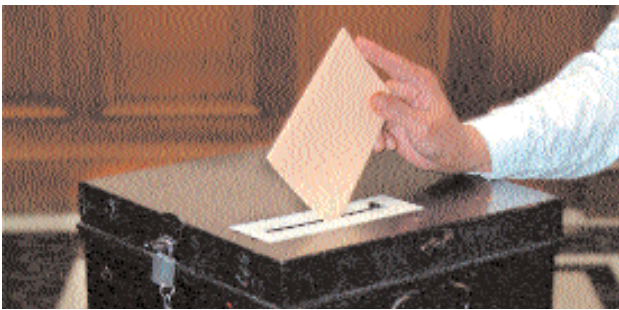
Attend committee events



Committees has hauden specific events tae discuss a subject wi the public. Gin ye are involved in a group wi an interest in a subject, the committee micht bid ye tae an event. For example, the Education Committee discussed wi young fowk, youth warkers an parents an idea for a Commissioner for Bairns an Young Fowk.

in the rinnin o Scotland?

Vote in the elections



Haud a demonstration



www.scottishparliamentlive.com

The wabsite hosts colloques on some o the latest issues bein debatit. You can hae yer say an read whit ither fowk thinks. Whiles MSPs paise the colloque tae find oot whit fowk thinks.

Staund for election



Gin ye are mair nor 21 an think ye can mak a difference tae hoo Scotland is governed ye cud staund for election as an MSP. Ye can staund as an independent individual candidate or jine a political pairty an ettle tae become a candidate for them.

Tak pairt in online colloques



Scottish Pairlamentary Democracy at Wark

The Scottish Pairlament an the Scottish Executive in action

The Scottish Pairlament an the Scottish Executive is sindry organisations an has different roles in governin Scotland.

The **Scottish Pairlament** is a law makin bodie made up o aw 129 MSPs. It gies the MSPs fae aw pairties an independent MSPs scowth tae mak new laws, tak tent o the wark of the Scottish Executive, tae debate issues o importance tae Scotland an tae heeze or lat doon taxes. **The Pairlament is accoontable til the fowk o Scotland.**

The **Scottish Executive** is the government for devolvit maitters in Scotland.

It maks policy on devolvit maitters an introduces new laws til the Scottish Pairlament. Forby, it rins ither public bodies an decides on public spendin on devolvit maitters in Scotland. **The Executive is accoontable til the Pairlament an til the fowk o Scotland.**

The First Meenister is the heid o the Scottish Executive an is walit by the Scottish Pairlament. Syne the First Meenister wales the Scottish Meenisters that is in chairge o a devolvit area. The First Meenister an the Scottish Meenisters is MSPs fae the pairty that has the maist MSPs electit til the Scottish Pairlament or fae a coalition o pairties.



Hoo are new laws made?

A proposal for a new law is cried a Bill.

Gin ye want tae express yer views anent a Bill gaun throu the Pairlament ye can contact yer MSPs or the committee seein about the Bill.

Maist bills is introductit by the Scottish Executive. Hooiver, committees an individual MSPs can introduce Bills an aw. Forby members o the public can mak suggestions anent new laws or chynge tae the law.

Bills maun gae throu sindry stages afore they can be passed by the Pairlament an become law.

The process warks like this for ordinar:

Stage 1 The relevant committee luiks intil the general principles o the Bill an yaisually seeks evidence fae interestit fowk. The Bill is debatit by the Pairlament. The Pairlament decides gin the Bill shud gae on til Stage 2.

Stage 2 The Bill gaes back til the relevant committee tae be owerluikit in detail. The committee wales throu the Bill line by line an micht mak amendments tae its wordin.

Stage 3 The Pairlament luiks intil the Bill agane. Faurer amendments micht be made tae the text o the Bill afore aw MSPs debates the Bill as a hail an decides gin tae pass it.



Gin the Bill is passed, it is sent til the Queen tae receive Royal Assent. Efter it has receivit Royal Assent, the Bill becomes an Act o the Scottish Pairlament an it becomes law.

Bills includes sections that states whan they will come intil effect an hoo they will be pit intae practice gin they become the law.

Faurer Speirins

Hoo can I find oot mair?

It is aften yaisefu tae ken about the Pairlament an whit is gaun on in it afore ye get involved or hae yer say. There sindry weys tae get mair speirins anent the Pairlament or oniething in this leaflet.

1. Contack the Pairlament's Public Information Service

The Public Information staff is gey helpfu an can answer speirins an buik tickets tae see the Pairlament or a committee in action. Ye can contack them by phone, email, fax or in scribing; details is on the hinderend o this leaflet.

2. Visit the Pairlament wabsite www.scottish.parliament.uk

A hantle o information anent the Pairlament is available.

Some yaisefu sections includes:

- Whit's happenin
- Anent the Pairlament
- MSPs
- Education



3. Visit yer local Pairtner Library

There ae Pairtner Library in ilka constituency in Scotland. Thon is public libraries that hauds information anent the Pairlament. Aw offer internet facilities, sae ye can access the Pairlament wabsite or email yer MSP. Ye can find oot whaur yer nearest Pairtner Library is by contactin the Public Information Service, luikin on the wabsite or speirin in yer local library.

4. Attend a debate or a committee meetin

Ye can get tickets tae see MSPs at wark in the Debatin Chaumer or in committee meetins by contactin the Public Information Service.

MSPs forgaiters in the Debatin Chaumer in Edinburgh tae debate an vote on Bills an issues o importance tae Scotland. Forby they hae scowth tae speir at the First Meenister an Scottish Meenisters.

Committees forgaiters for ordinar in wee'er rooms in the Scottish Pairlament in Edinburgh. Hooiver, they forgaiter in ither pairts o Scotland gin they are discussin issues that affeck a particular place.

Gin ye wud like an interpreter tae convoy ye on a visit, please tell the Public Information staff least 2 week afore ye mint tae visit.

5. Come til the Scottish Pairlament Visitor Centre

The Visitor Centre has brow visual an interactive displays that lats ye explore information anent the Pairlament at yer ain raik.

The Visitor Centre is staffed by Public Enquiry Officers that can answer yer speirins on the Pairlament an buik ye tickets for the Debatin Chaumer an committee meetins. Ye will get a reenge of yaisefu speirins includin fackfiles an quizzes for young visitors.



6. Watch the Pairlament on the internet

Gin ye canna come alang til the Pairlament ye can watch debates an committee meetins live on the internet at www.scottishparliamentlive.com

A wheen words explainit

Accoontable	Tae be accoontable til a bodie or an organisation is tae hae tae explain yer actions til them an tae be responsible for the effect o yer actions.
Act	A law passed by the Scottish Pairlament that has receivit Royal Assent.
Amendment	A chynge that is suggestit tae the wordin o a Bill or motion.
Bill	A set o proposals that micht become law, gin the Pairlament passes it.
Candidate	A bodie that staunds for election either as a member o a political pairty or as an independent individual.
Coalition	A formal arrangement atween mair nor ae political pairty/group; for exaimple tae form the Scottish Executive. This micht happen if nae single pairty wins mair nor hauf the total nummer o seats in the Pairlament.
Committee	Ilka committee is made up o 5 tae 15 MSPs. The MSPs is selectit tae refleck the balance o the sindry political pairties an independent MSPs in the Pairlament. Committees luiks til specific issues in detail.
Constituency	Scotland is dividit intil 73 local areas for elections; ilka area is kent as a constituency. Ilka constituency elects 1 MSP, kent as a constituency MSP.
Cross-Party Group	A group made up o MSPs fae sindry pairties, independent MSPs an individuals an organisations fae ootwi the Pairlament. They share an interest in a subjeck or issue.
Debate	A colloque that taks place atween MSPs that will aften lead til a vote. Debates is hauden for ordinar in the Debatin Chaumer.
Devolution	The transfer o pooer fae a central body til local bodies. This lats decisions be made at a level nearaboot the pynt whaur they will hae an impact.
First Meenister	The First Meenister is the heid o the Scottish Executive. He or she is an MSP walit an nominatit by the Pairlament an appyntit by The Queen.

Motion	A statement lodged by an MSP for consideration, debate and decision by the Parliament or a committee.
MSP	Member of the Scottish Parliament. The MSPs are the individuals elected to serve and represent the people of Scotland in the Scottish Parliament. There are 129 MSPs.
Public Petition	A signed statement addressed to the Parliament from a body or group of people in the Parliament to do something about a particular issue or law.
Region	Scotland is divided into 8 council areas for elections; each area is known as a region. Each region elects 7 MSPs that are known as regional MSPs.
Reservist Matters	The issues affecting Scotland that are decided at the United Kingdom Parliament in London.
Royal Assent	When a Bill has been passed by the Scottish Parliament, the Queen is required for her approval. When it has been signed by her, it becomes an Act of the Scottish Parliament.
Scottish Executive	The most successful party in an election or a coalition of parties forms the Executive. It is the devolved government of Scotland that consists of the Scottish Ministers and the Lord Advocate and Solicitor General for Scotland. It introduces most new laws and is responsible for important areas of public policy.
Scottish Ministers	Each Scottish Minister is the head of a department in the Scottish Executive, for example education or justice, and might be supported by a Deputy Scottish Minister. The Scottish Ministers and Deputy Scottish Ministers are MSPs that are led by the First Minister.
Surgery	The regular sessions held by MSPs in their constituency or region in a local place such as a community hall, a library or a supermarket. They can go to their meetings to discuss issues that concern the people of the MSPs.

For more information about the Parliament or anything in this leaflet you can visit our website at www.scottish.parliament.uk or contact the **Public Information Service**:

☎ Telephone: 0131 348 5000 or 0845 278 1999 (local rate).

Calls via RNID Typetalk/TextDirect: 18001 0131 348 5000

☎ Textphone: 0131 348 5415

☎ Fax: 0131 348 5601

@ Email: sp.info@scottish.parliament.uk

✉ Scribe: Public Information Service, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

For a copy of this leaflet in languages other than English or in Braille, audio tape or in any computer format please contact the Public Information Service. We welcome correspondence in any language. We can only accept phone calls presently in English and Gaelic.

للحصول على نسخة من هذا المطبوع باللغة العربية يرجى الاتصال بخدمة تقديم المعلومات للجمهور. إننا نرحب بالمراسلات الخطية مهما كانت اللغة المستخدمة في كتابتها وسنرد عليكم بلغتكم أما بالنسبة للمكالمات الهاتفية فنحن قادرون حالياً على التعامل معها باللغتين الإنجليزية والغيلية فقط.

বাংলা ভাষায় লিখা এই প্রচারণার একটি কপির জন্য, দয়া করে, পাবলিক ইনফর্মেশন সার্ভিস এর সাথে যোগাযোগ করুন।

যে কোন ভাষায় লিখা চিঠিপত্রের মাধ্যমে আমাদের সাথে যোগাযোগ করলে আমরা তা সাদরে গ্রহণ করবো এবং আপনার নিজের ভাষায় উত্তর দেবো। বর্তমানে আমরা শুধুমাত্র ইংরেজী এবং গেলিক ভাষায় ফোন কল গ্রহণ করে থাকি।

如需本宣传材料的中文本，请联系公共信息服务处。我们欢迎任何语言的通信。目前我们只能接听英语和盖尔语的电话。

For a copy of this leaflet in English please contact the Public Information Service. We welcome written correspondence in any language. At present we can only accept phone calls in English and Gaelic.

Airson lethbhreac den bhileag seo ann an Gàidhlig cuiribh fios chun na Seirbheis Fiosrachaidh Phoblaich. Tha sinn a' cur fàilte an-dràsta air litrichean sgrìobhte ann an cànan sam bith agus freagraidh sinn anns a' chànan agad fhèin. Chan urrainn dhuinn bruidhinn ribh air an fhòn sa Bheurla agus sa Ghàidhlig.

ਇਸ ਪਰਚੇ ਦੀ ਅੰਗਰੇਜ਼ੀ ਵਿਚ ਕਾਪੀ ਹਾਸਲ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਸਤੇ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਜਨਰਲ ਜਾਨਕਾਰੀ ਸੇਵਾ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

ਅਸੀਂ ਲਿਖਤੀ ਢੰਗ ਨਾਲ ਸਾਰੀਆਂ ਜ਼ਬਾਨਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਸੁਆਗਤ ਕਰਦੇ ਹਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਹੁਣ ਤੱਕ ਸਿਰਫ਼ ਉਤਰ ਦੇਵਾਗੀ। ਬਰਤਮਾਨ ਸਮੇਂ ਅਸੀਂ ਫ਼ੋਨ ਦੇ ਉਤਰ ਸਿਰਫ਼ ਅੰਗਰੇਜ਼ੀ ਅਤੇ ਗੈਲਿਕ ਵਿਚ ਹੀ ਦੇ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਾਂ।

اس لطیف کی کاپی اردو زبان میں حاصل کرنے کے لئے براۓ مہربانی ہماری پبلک انفارمیشن سروس سے رابطہ کریں۔ ہم کسی بھی زبان میں تحریری خط و کتابت کا خیر مقدم کرتے ہیں اور ہم واپسی جواب آپ کی زبان میں دیں گے۔ فی الحال ہم بلطینیون کاٹز صرف انگریزی یا گیلک زبان میں وصول کر سکتے ہیں۔