

Scottish Parliament Awareness Session



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba



Date: 31 March 2022

Participation and Communities Team (PACT)

- Community engagement
- Digital engagement
- Deliberative engagement
- Build relationships with third sector and other community-based networks
- Facilitate engagement with underrepresented groups, in particular groups with protected characteristics



Community Engagement

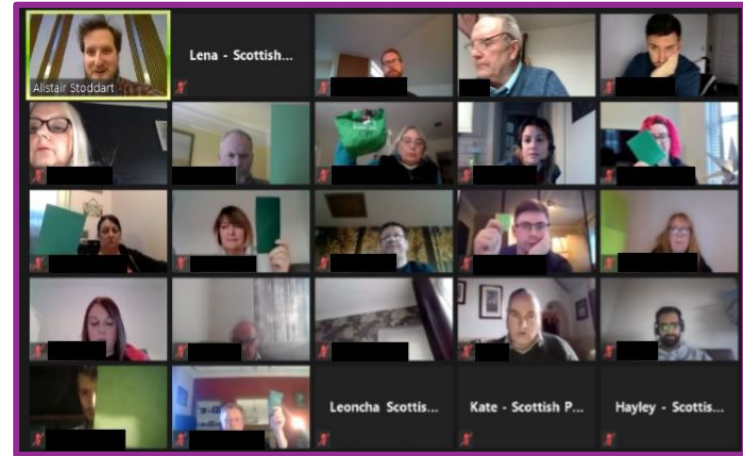
- Partnerships and Relationship Building
- Lived Experience
- Inclusion and diversity



Deliberative Engagement



Primary Care Public Panels (2019)



Covid- 19 Citizens' Panel (2021)



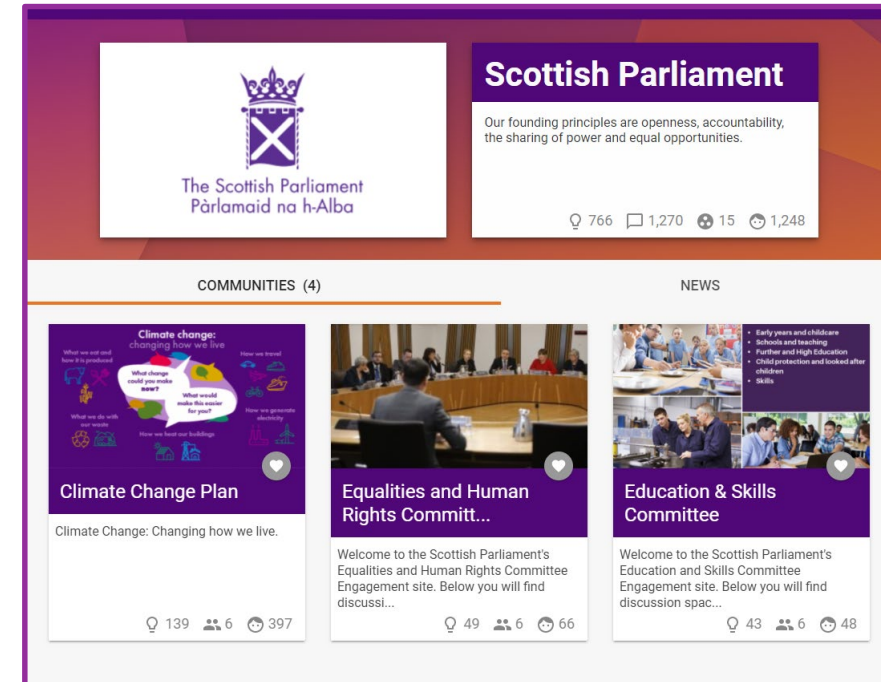
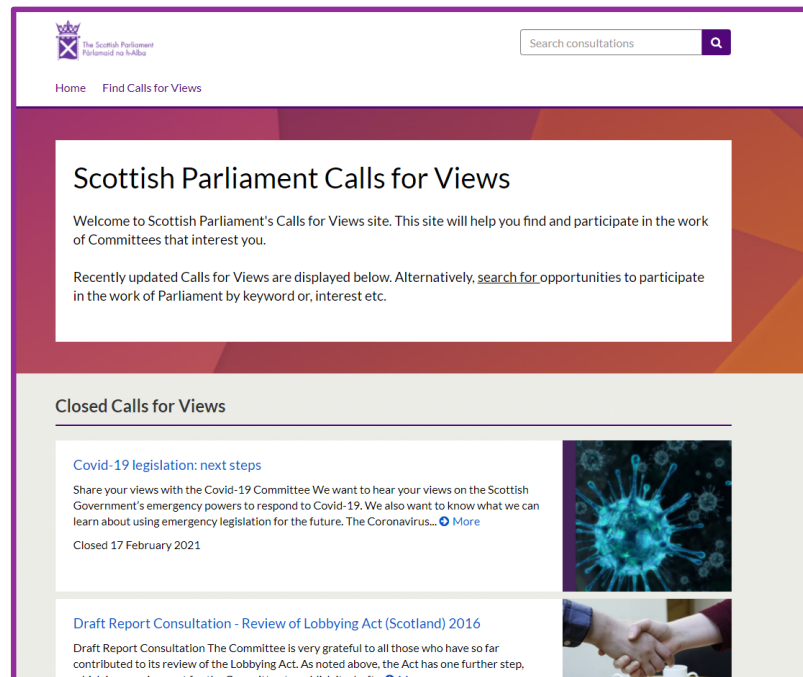
Citizens' Jury on Land Management
(2019)



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Digital Engagement

- Digital Engagement Tools Team (DETT)
- Virtual facilitation tools



- Your Priorities
- Crowd sourcing ideas

- Citizen Space – Call for Views

Committees



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What is a committee?

Group of MSPs with cross-party representation (usually 5 to 10 MSPs)

- Currently 16 Committees
- Several simultaneous meetings in the morning of business days (Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays) – Time-effective system
- Key role in law-making: successful bills will have Committee input at least twice in the process
- Key role in the scrutiny of the work of the Scottish Government.



<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/committees>



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Covid-19 Recovery Committee

Current Members



Siobhian Brown

Convener

Party: **Scottish National Party**

MSP for: **Ayr (Constituency)**



Murdo Fraser

Deputy Convener

Party: **Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party**

MSP for: **Mid Scotland and Fife (Region)**



Jim Fairlie

Member

Party: **Scottish National Party**

MSP for: **Perthshire South and Kinross-shire (Constituency)**



John Mason

Member

Party: **Scottish National Party**

MSP for: **Glasgow Shettleston (Constituency)**



Alex Rowley

Member

Party: **Scottish Labour**

MSP for: **Mid Scotland and Fife (Region)**



Brian Whittle

Member

Party: **Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party**

MSP for: **South Scotland (Region)**

- the Scottish Government's response to COVID-19 and actions to recover from the pandemic
- Government legislation introduced in response to the pandemic
- legislation or policies aiming to help Scotland recover from the pandemic
- how Government departments work together to respond and recover from the pandemic



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Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

Current Members



Gillian Martin

Convener

Party: **Scottish National Party**

MSP for: **Aberdeenshire East (Constituency)**



Paul O'Kane

Deputy Convener

Party: **Scottish Labour**

MSP for: **West Scotland (Region)**



Stephanie Callaghan

Member

Party: **Scottish National Party**

MSP for: **Uddingston and Bellshill (Constituency)**



Dr. Sandesh Gulhane

Member

Party: **Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party**

MSP for: **Glasgow (Region)**



Emma Harper

Member

Party: **Scottish National Party**

MSP for: **South Scotland (Region)**



Gillian Mackay

Member

Party: **Scottish Green Party**

MSP for: **Central Scotland (Region)**



Carol Mochan

Member

Party: **Scottish Labour**

MSP for: **South Scotland (Region)**



David Torrance

Member

Party: **Scottish National Party**

MSP for: **Kirkcaldy (Constituency)**



Evelyn Tweed

Member

Party: **Scottish National Party**

MSP for: **Stirling (Constituency)**



Sue Webber

Member

Party: **Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party**

MSP for: **Lothian (Region)**

- health services in Scotland – including performance, staffing and funding
- primary care - including dentistry, GPs, and pharmacy services
- public health including mental health and wellbeing, and tackling drugs misuse
- sport and physical activity
- social care



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Inquiry into health inequalities

Overview

The Health, Social Care and Sport Committee is undertaking an inquiry into health inequalities in Scotland.

Public Health Scotland define health inequalities as the “avoidable and unjust differences in people’s health across the population.”

Some variations in health may be naturally occurring and unavoidable. However, health inequalities are defined as such when they affect certain groups in a way that is unfair and avoidable.

Aims:

The aim of this inquiry is to explore progress towards tackling health inequalities in Scotland since 2015. It will explore any cross-sectoral work undertaken over that time period to address social inequalities and what impact this has had on health inequalities.

Current Inquiry

Closes 31 Mar 2022

Opened 11 Feb 2022



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Current Committees

COVID-19 Recovery Committee

Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee

Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee

Criminal Justice Committee

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee

Economy and Fair Work Committee

Education, Children and Young People Committee

Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee

Finance and Public Administration Committee

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee

Public Audit Committee

Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee

Social Justice and Social Security Committee

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

Local Government, Housing
and Planning Committee

National Planning Framework 4 – NPF4
7 Feb 2022



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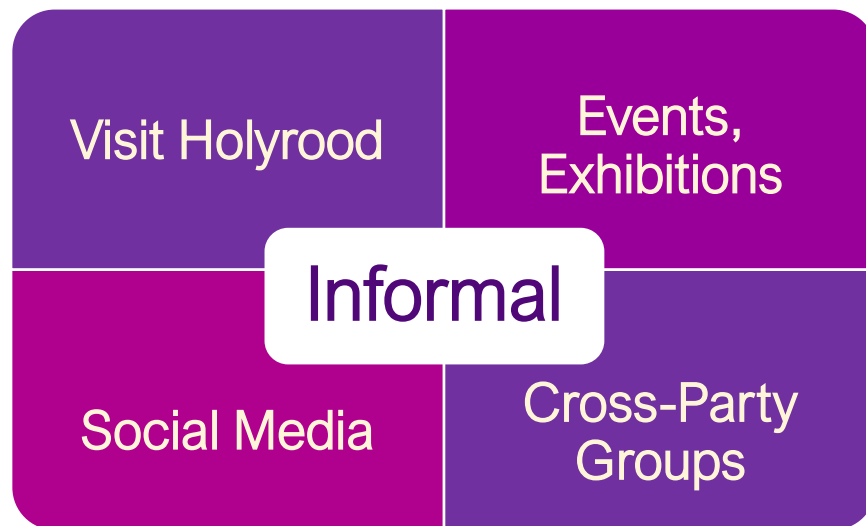
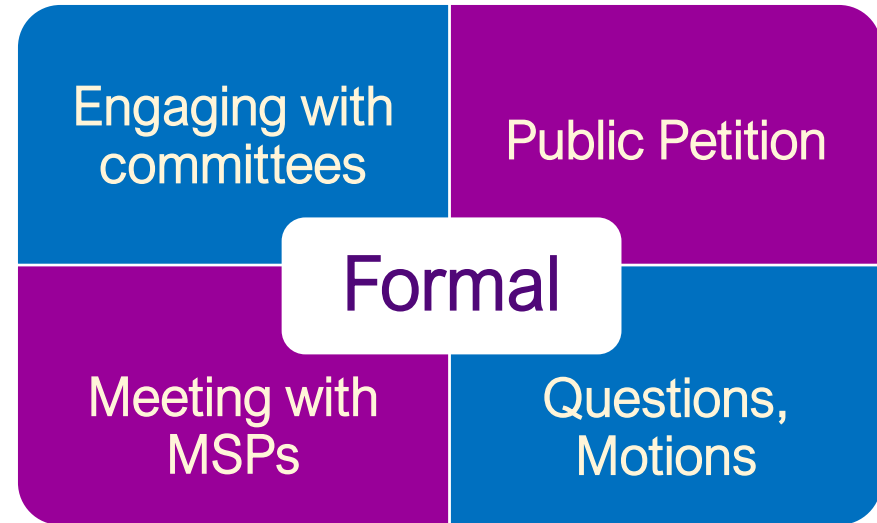
How to Engage with the Scottish Parliament



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Types of Engagement



Cross Party Groups (CPGs)

- meet to discuss a shared interest/cause/subject
- a way for external groups to have their voice heard
- a sounding board for MSPs
- currently ca 100 CPGs covering a wide range of topics



Get involved

Cross-Party Groups

Current and previous Cross-party groups

Cross-party groups from the current parliamentary session.

➔ [Find out about previous session Cross-party groups](#)

Filter Hide

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Displaying 40 current and previous cross-party groups

<https://www.parliament.scot/get-involved/cross-party-groups/current-and-previous-cross-party-groups?qry=health&openClosed=open#>



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Health Themed Cross-Party Groups

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 26, 2022

Cross-Party Group in the Scottish Parliament on LGBTI+

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Cross-Party Group in the Scottish Parliament on Health Inequalities

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 17, 2022

Cross-Party Group in the Scottish Parliament on Human Trafficking

Next meeting: Wednesday, June 8, 2022

Cross-Party Group in the Scottish Parliament on Palliative Care

Next meeting: Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Cross-Party Group in the Scottish Parliament on Inflammatory Bowel Disease

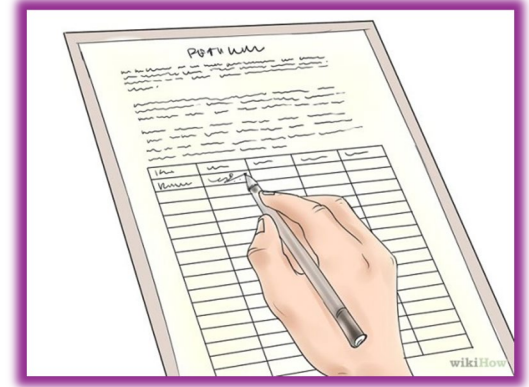


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Public Petitions

Purpose

- get issues onto the Parliament's agenda
- get questions answered by relevant stakeholders
- provide insight into issues that matter to the people of Scotland



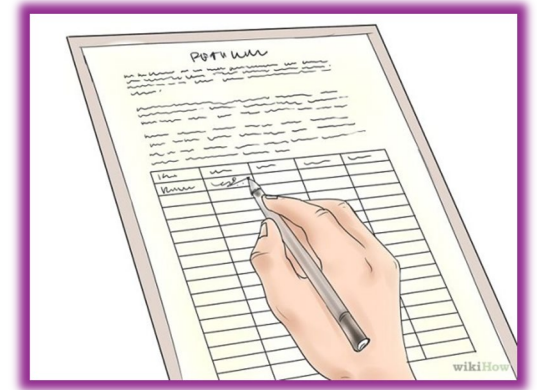
Requirements

- ONE signature and any topic can be considered, as long as it...
 - has national impact, not a local matter, individual/personal case
 - has been raised and received a response from a decision-maker
 - is within the scope of a devolved issue



Public Petitions

- No lower age limit
- Any language (translation is provided) and in paper form
- Admissible petitions will be published and considered
- Number of signatures does not determine the outcome
- Committee will always receive a response from Scottish Government



New Online Public Petitions System

- Start of Session 6, more accessible in terms of guidance and improved use on mobiles phones and tablets

<https://youtu.be/a3Q246SdZNA>



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Tips For Successful Engagement

- 8 MSPs
- Meet them in person
- Bring 'Lived Experience'
- Do your homework
- Have clear, specific objectives
- Be prepared to listen
- Be realistic about outcomes
- Link-up with other groups
- Ask parliamentary staff





SPICe

The Information Centre
An t-Ionad Fiosrachaidh

What is SPICe?

We work here (when not in a global pandemic)



SPICe provides **impartial, factual, accurate and timely information and analysis** to Members in support of parliamentary business.



SPICe

The Information Centre
An t-Ionad Fiosrachaidh

Who does SPICe support?



MSPs and their staff

Parliamentary Committees

Scottish Parliament staff

The public and the media (indirectly)



SPICe Structure

- Around **50 staff** - 15 library staff (enquiries and collections) and 35 in research. **Research is divided into five units:**

Enquiries and collections

Environment, Rural, Constitution and
International Research

Justice and Social Affairs Research

Health and Social Care Research

Financial Scrutiny

Data Visualisation Team



What does SPICe do?

- **Answering MSPs' confidential enquiries** (around 400-500 per month)
- **Research support to parliamentary committees**
- Proactive briefings and blogs
- Petitions briefings and material for debates
- But also other work – research support for the Parliament as an institution
- Liaising with stakeholders/academics/Scottish Government and agencies to ensure knowledge and understanding is up-to-date
- Commissioning academic research/academic engagement

**Health, Social Care and Sport Committee:**

- Care Pathways Inquiry
- Health Inequalities Inquiry

COVID-19 Recovery Committee:

- Coronavirus Recovery and Reform Bill
- Inquiry into excess deaths in Scotland since the start of the pandemic

Legislation

- National Care Service Bill – Summer 2022

