

Scottish Parliament

Friday 12 December 2025

[The Presiding Officer opened the meeting at 00:00]

Child Poverty

The Presiding Officer (Alison Johnstone): Good morning, and a warm welcome to the 20th meeting in 2025 of the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee. Our first agenda item is to take evidence from the Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture on the Scottish Government's humanitarian response to Gaza. We are joined in the room by the cabinet secretary, Angus Robertson, along with Joanna Keating, head of international development; Alice Guinan, humanitarian and conflict lead; and Stuart Adam, head of Asia team, international relations, from the Scottish Government. We welcome you all to the committee. Cabinet secretary, would you like to make an opening statement?

14:00

George Adam (Paisley) (SNP): Good morning, and a warm welcome to the 20th meeting in 2025 of the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee. Our first agenda item is to take evidence from the Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture on the Scottish Government's humanitarian response to Gaza. We are joined in the room by the cabinet secretary, Angus Robertson, along with Joanna Keating, head of international development; Alice Guinan, humanitarian and conflict lead; and Stuart Adam, head of Asia team, international relations, from the Scottish Government. We welcome you all to the committee. Cabinet secretary, would you like to make an opening statement?

14:05

The Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Energy (Gillian Martin): Good morning, and a warm welcome to the 20th meeting in 2025 of the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee. Our first agenda item is to take evidence from the Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture on the Scottish Government's humanitarian response to Gaza. We are joined in the room by the cabinet secretary, Angus Robertson, along with Joanna Keating, head of international development; Alice Guinan, humanitarian and conflict lead; and Stuart Adam, head of Asia team, international relations, from the Scottish Government. We welcome you all to the committee. Cabinet secretary, would you like to make an opening statement?

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Stuart McMillan (Greenock and Inverclyde) (SNP): Good morning, and a warm welcome to the 20th meeting in 2025 of the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee. Our first agenda item is to take evidence from the Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture on the Scottish Government's humanitarian response to Gaza. We are joined in the room by the cabinet secretary, Angus Robertson, along with Joanna Keating, head of international development; Alice Guinan, humanitarian and conflict lead; and Stuart Adam, head of Asia team, international relations, from the Scottish Government. We welcome you all to the committee. Cabinet secretary, would you like to make an opening statement?

The Lord Advocate (Rt Hon Dorothy Bain KC): The *Official Report* is a written record of what was said in public meetings of the Scottish Parliament and in committee meetings. It is a substantially verbatim report. This means that repetitions and redundancies are omitted and obvious mistakes are corrected. Official Report staff exercise editorial judgment to convey the spoken word in written text while maintaining the flavour of the speech.

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Mr Test (Test Organisation): The *Official Report* is a written record of what was said in public meetings of the Scottish Parliament and in committee meetings. It is a substantially verbatim report. This means that repetitions and redundancies are omitted and obvious mistakes are corrected. Official Report staff exercise editorial judgment to convey the spoken word in written text while maintaining the flavour of the speech.

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