

Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans
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Our Reference: 202600522176
Your Reference: Parliamentary Bureau Motion S7M-00269 Establishment of Committees

23 June 2026

Dear Andy,

Thank you for your letter on the process of deciding the allocation of committee convenerships and deputy convenerships as set out in S7M-00269. I trust you are well.

The allocation of committee convenerships and deputy convenerships is managed by the parliamentary authorities and is determined using the d'Hondt method. This ensures that the distribution of these roles reflects the overall party balance in Parliament, which of course reflects the result of the 2026 election.

For each of the sixteen committees, Business Managers were invited - following the order set by the d'Hondt formula which was provided by Parliamentary clerks - to select the convenership for their party group. Once these had been allocated, deputy convenerships were chosen in turn on the same basis. The process was conducted in accordance with the Parliament's Standing Orders.

It is not unusual for the same party group to hold both the convener and deputy convener roles on a committee. For example Scottish Labour held both positions on the Finance Committee in Session 1. The SNP held both positions on the same committee in Session 4. In the last session the SNP held both positions on the Delegated Powers and Law Reform, and the Social Justice and Social Security Committees.

As you are well aware, the d'Hondt method ensures that positions reflect the party balance in the Parliament. Although, as I said in response to the points raised by Craig Hoy MSP in the Chamber on 4 June 2026, three committee places that the Scottish National Party were entitled to under d'Hondt were given up and Reform UK, Scottish Labour and the Scottish Conservatives each received an additional committee place.

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Tha Ministearanna h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot

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In terms of there being any deal being struck with me and other party business managers in respect of any of the conveners or deputy conveners of each committee, I am happy to confirm that no such arrangement existed. You are welcome to make this letter public as you see fit.

Thanks again for taking the time to write to me.

Yours sincerely



JAMIE HEPBURN

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