

Cabinet and Ministers - Scottish Government June 2026

The Scottish Cabinet

The Cabinet is the main decision-making body of the Scottish Government. It is made up of the First Minister and all Cabinet Secretaries. The Permanent Secretary attends Cabinet meetings as Secretary to the Cabinet. The Minister for Parliamentary Business is not a member, but attends weekly to discuss forthcoming business in the Parliament. The Lord Advocate is not a member, but attends when required to provide legal advice and to represent their ministerial interests. Cabinet meetings are held weekly in Bute House, Edinburgh while parliament is sitting, and may also be held at other times in locations throughout Scotland.

First Minister

Current role holder: **John Swinney MSP**



Responsibilities

As head of the Scottish Government, the First Minister is responsible for the overall development, implementation and presentation of the administration's policies and for promoting and representing Scotland at home and overseas.

Subject to Parliament's agreement, the First Minister appoints other ministers - including a Deputy First Minister and cabinet secretaries - from among Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs).

The First Minister chairs the Scottish Cabinet, the main forum for ministers to consider and make key decisions on the strategic priorities and policies of the government to achieve its objectives.



About Bute House

Find out more about the official residence of the First Minister of Scotland, Bute House.

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government

Current role holder

Jenny Gilruth MSP



Contact

Address

Deputy First Minister
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Email

scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Jenny Gilruth MSP was appointed Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government in May 2026.

Responsibilities

- inter-governmental relations
- cross-government delivery and outcomes
- Redress
- inquiries policy and Historical abuse inquiry, Sheku Bayoh public inquiry, and Covid Inquiries
- British Irish Council
- royal and ceremonial

As Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government

- local government, local governance and local government finance
- Scottish budget, budgetary monitoring and reporting, including Medium Term Financial Strategy
- fiscal and taxation policy
- Exchequer and the public finances
- public sector pay
- Scottish Fiscal Commission
- Fiscal Framework
- public sector pensions and Scottish Public Pensions Agency
- cross government co-ordination of infrastructure policy, investment, and commission

Supporting Ministers

- [Minister for Public Finance](#)

Biography

Brought up and educated in Fife, she is a graduate of Glasgow University, where she studied Politics and Sociology, and of Strathclyde University where she studied for her Postgraduate in Secondary Education (Modern Studies).

Prior to being elected in 2016, Ms Gilruth worked for over a decade in education, most recently as a Head of Department in a Fife secondary school.

She also worked at Education Scotland as NQ lead for Modern Studies, supporting the development of the new qualifications and as a Modern Studies teacher.

Ms Gilruth was first elected to represent the Mid Fife and Glenrothes constituency at the 2016 Scottish Parliament election.

She was previously the:

- Minister for Europe and International Development
- Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development
- Minister for Transport

Ms Gilruth was Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills from March 2023 until being appointed to her current role.

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Care

Current role holder

Angela Constance MSP



Contact

Address

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Care
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Angela Constance was appointed as Cabinet Secretary for Health and Care in May 2026.

Responsibilities

- primary care and GPs
- community care
- acute services
- unscheduled care
- NHS performance
- workforce, training, planning and pay
- allied healthcare services
- patient services and patient safety
- health and social care integration
- health improvement and protection
- quality and improvement

- person-centred care
- eHealth
- NHS estate
- centre of excellence for rural and remote medicine and social care

Supporting Ministers

- [Minister for Community Care](#)
- [Minister for Mental Wellbeing, Public Health, Sport, Alcohol and Drugs](#)

Biography

Angela Constance was born, raised and educated in West Lothian. Prior to 2007, she worked as a social worker and mental health officer and was a local councillor in Livingston.

She has been a Member of the Scottish Parliament since May 2007, first for the Livingston constituency and now for the Almond Valley constituency.

She has served as Minister for Youth Employment and Cabinet Secretary for Training, Youth and Women's Employment, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning and Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities. Also a former Minister for Drugs Policy Ms Constance served as Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs for more than three years until being appointed to her current role.

Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Tourism and Transport

Current role holder

Stephen Flynn MSP



Contact

Address

Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Tourism and Transport
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Email

scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Stephen Flynn was appointed Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Tourism and Transport in May 2026.

Responsibilities

Economy

- economic policy and prosperity
- business, industry, manufacturing support and entrepreneurship
- labour market strategy
- green industrial strategy
- Scottish National Investment Bank
- Office of the Chief Economic Adviser

- enterprise agencies
- inward investment and global capital investment
- engagement with UK government on Shared Funds
- government investments (Prestwick, Fergusons, BiFab)
- City Region Deals and Regional Growth Deals
- retail policy
- tourism policy, strategy and support
- food and drink policy, strategy and support
- Food Standards Scotland

Transport

- national transport strategy, infrastructure improvements, and strategic projects
- Transport Scotland and transport bodies
- public transport policy
- ferry services
- decarbonisation and just transition of transport including reduction on car miles
- rail services
- freight industry
- bus services and concessionary fares
- island connectivity
- roads, road safety and low emission zones
- transport resilience and major events
- maritime policy and ports
- accessible transport
- Traffic Scotland, transport data, and information systems
- aviation and air services (including HIAL)
- active travel including cycling infrastructure
- Scottish Canals

Supporting Ministers

- [Minister for Business and Fair Work](#)

Biography

Stephen Flynn was born in Dundee. He studied history and politics at the University of Dundee before being elected to Aberdeen City Council in 2015.

Mr Flynn represented Aberdeen South in the UK Parliament for more than 6 years, and was elected as MSP for Aberdeen Deeside and North Kincardine in 2026.

He is an avid Dundee United fan.

Cabinet Secretary for Justice

Current role holder

Neil Gray MSP



Contact

Address

Cabinet Secretary for Justice
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Email

scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Neil Gray was appointed as Cabinet Secretary for Justice in May 2026.

Responsibilities

- justice policy and strategy
- police
- prison service, prison reform and prisoner policy, offender services
- Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- justice system, criminal law procedure, courts and sentencing
- Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service
- criminal justice social work
- Parole Board for Scotland

- Victim Taskforce
- criminal injuries compensation
- reducing reoffending
- social impact investment
- national community justice strategy
- violence against women including misogyny and prostitution
- violence reduction
- PREVENT (counter-terrorism strategy)
- Office of Chief Social Work Advisor and National Social Work Agency
- security and resilience (including SGORR and cyber resilience)

Supporting Ministers

- [Minister for Victims and Community Safety](#)

Biography

He was born and brought up in Orkney and was educated at Kirkwall Grammar School before graduating from the University of Stirling in 2008 with a first-class Bachelor of Arts Honours degree in politics and journalism.

Mr Gray was elected to represent Airdrie and Shotts Constituency at the 2021 Scottish Parliament election.

He had previously won the Airdrie and Shotts Westminster seat in 2015 and held it on two subsequent occasions before resigning as an MP to stand for the same area in the 2021 Scottish Parliament election. Prior to becoming an MP, Mr Gray worked for former Scottish Government Health Secretary Alex Neil MSP as his Airdrie and Shotts constituency office manager.

Neil Gray was appointed Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development in January 2022. In March 2022 he additionally became Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine. He was appointed Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy in March 2023, and Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care in February 2024. He served as Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care from May 2024 until being appointed to his current role two years later.

Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Rural Affairs

Current role holder

Gillian Martin MSP



Contact

Address

Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Rural Affairs
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Email

scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Gillian Martin was appointed as Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Rural Affairs in May 2026.

Responsibilities

Climate Action

- cross government co-ordination of Net Zero policy
- climate crisis and environmental protection
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency
- environmental and climate justice and international climate change
- environmental quality
- sustainable development
- flood prevention and coastal erosion

- drinking water quality and regulator, Scottish Water, private water, hydronation
- circular economy
- Emissions Trading Schemes
- deposit return, waste issues, Zero Waste Scotland
- Green Growth Accelerator
- nature recovery targets and NatureScot
- biodiversity and endangered species

Rural

- rural policy and strategy
- land reform and land use
- natural resources and peatland
- national parks and natural heritage
- Scottish Land Commission
- Crown Estate Scotland
- Royal Botanic Gardens

Supporting Ministers

- [Minister for Agriculture, Marine and the Islands](#)

Biography

Gillian Martin grew up in Newburgh, Aberdeenshire. Prior to her role as an MSP, she lectured in Television Production at North East Scotland College and ran her own video production company. She also designed safety courses for the energy industry and was the manager of an emergency media response team for companies operating in the North Sea for 10 years.

Ms Martin was elected as a Member of the Scottish Parliament to represent Aberdeenshire East in 2016. She was appointed as Minister for Energy and the Environment in March 2023, and Minister for Energy, Just Transition and Fair Work in February 2024. In May 2024 she was appointed as Minister for Climate Action. In July 2024, Ms Martin was appointed as Acting Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy in July 2024 for the duration of Màiri McAllan's maternity leave. In June 2025, she was appointed as Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Energy.

Cabinet Secretary for Education, Culture and Gaelic

Current role holder

Màiri McAllan MSP



Contact

Address

Cabinet Secretary for Education, Culture and Gaelic
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Email

scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Màiri McAllan MSP was appointed as Cabinet Secretary for Education, Culture and Gaelic in May 2026.

Responsibilities

- childcare and wraparound care
- school standards, quality and improvement, behaviour, inclusive education
- school infrastructure and staffing
- school learning, Additional Support Needs, support for learning
- Education Scotland
- Curriculum for Excellence development
- National Improvement Framework
- teaching profession

- removing barriers to education, closing attainment gap, supporting digital inclusion
- positive destinations, school leavers toolkit, Education Maintenance Allowances
- education strategy and performance, analytical services
- languages - Gaelic, Scots, BSL
- policy and support for culture, creative, arts, and architecture industries and festivals, supporting the creative workforce
- Museums and Galleries Scotland and cultural collections
- broadcasting and screen
- Creative Scotland, national performing companies
- intangible cultural heritage

Supporting Ministers

- [Minister for Children, Young People, and The Promise](#)
- [Minister for Innovation, Technology and Tertiary Education](#)

Biography

Màiri McAllan is a former corporate lawyer and Special Adviser to the First Minister and was elected to the Scottish Parliament in 2021 to represent the constituency of Clydesdale.

Ms McAllan, while practising law, specialised in energy and natural resources in a large Glasgow firm. She also cofounded the human rights organisation 'Reblaw Scotland' during this time.

She was appointed as Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Just Transition in March 2023, Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Net Zero and Energy in February 2024 and Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy in May 2024. More recently, Ms McAllan served as Cabinet Secretary for Housing from June 2025 to May 2026.

Cabinet Secretary for Public Service Reform

Current role holder

Ivan McKee MSP



Contact

Address

Cabinet Secretary for Public Service Reform
St Andrew's House
2 Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Email

scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Ivan McKee was appointed Cabinet Secretary for Public Service Reform in May 2026.

Responsibilities

- public sector reform policy including civil service operations and efficiency
- Scottish Futures Trust
- government procurement and shared services
- public sector and public bodies productivity and efficiency
- energy consents (including offshore consenting)
- National Performance Framework

Supporting Minsiters

- [Minister for Public Finance](#)

Biography

Ivan McKee's career has involved a number of senior roles in manufacturing and business, managing companies in the UK as well as Poland, Finland, Croatia and Bosnia.

Early in his career, Mr McKee spent two years with VSO in Bangladesh. He is currently a trustee of the charity CEI, which supports education and health projects in Bangladesh.

First elected an MSP for Glasgow Provan in May 2016, Mr McKee now represents the Glasgow Easterhouse and Springburn constituency. He was brought up in Glasgow where he studied at the University of Strathclyde. He also studied at the University of Newcastle.

Most recently Minister for Public Finance, Mr McKee has also previously served as Minister for Trade, Investment and Innovation as well as Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism and Enterprise.

Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice and Housing

Current role holder

Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP



Contact

Address

Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice and Housing
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Email

scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Shirley-Anne Somerville was appointed as Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice and Housing in May 2026.

Responsibilities

- social security policy and strategy and Social Security Scotland
- social justice, tackling poverty and inequalities
- child poverty and whole family support
- Baby Box
- Office of Chief Social Policy Advisor
- third sector and Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator
- human rights and UN treaty incorporation
- Affordable Housing Supply Programme

- Housing to 2040 strategy
- homelessness and rough sleeping
- cladding remediation
- regulation of existing housing systems
- tenants rights
- building standards

Supporting Ministers

- [Minister for Equalities and International Development](#)

Biography

Educated at Kirkcaldy High School, she then graduated from the University of Strathclyde with a BA (Hons) in Economics and Politics (1996), followed by a Diploma in Housing Studies at the University of Stirling and a Diploma in Public Relations from Queen Margaret University College.

She has worked as a parliamentary researcher, a Policy and Public Affairs Officer at the Chartered Institute of Housing, and as a Media and Campaigns Officer at the Royal College of Nursing.

Ms Somerville was previously an MSP for the Lothians region from 2007 to 2011, and returned to the Scottish Parliament in 2016 as MSP for Dunfermline. She was previously Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science, and was appointed Cabinet Secretary for Social Security and Older People in June 2018. She was Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills until March 2023, when she was appointed Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice.

Minister for Business and Fair Work

Current role holder

Tom Arthur MSP



Contact

Address

Minister for Business and Fair Work
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Email

scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Tom Arthur was appointed as Minister for Business and Fair Work in May 2026.

Responsibilities

Supports the [Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Tourism and Transport](#).

- Living Wage and Living Hours
- employability programmes
- effective worker voice, including trade unions
- workplace employment and equalities, including gender, disability and race employment, addressing the pay gap
- Partnership Action for Continuing Employment (PACE)
- population and migration
- business support, policy and promotion

- digital economy, strategy, participation, connectivity
- Green Freeports and investment zones
- subsidy control regime
- trade policy and strategy
- just transition planning, delivery and monitoring, including JustTransition Commission
- social enterprise
- towns, cities and communities strategy, investment, regeneration and development

Biography

Born in Paisley in 1985, Tom Arthur was first elected to the Scottish Parliament for the seat of Renfrewshire South at the 2016 election, holding the seat in 2021. He joined the Scottish Government as Minister for Public Finance, Planning and Community Wealth in May 2021.

Mr Arthur was raised in Barrhead, East Renfrewshire, where he was educated at Cross Arthurlie Primary and Barrhead High School. He graduated with a Bachelor of Music then later Master of Music from the University of Glasgow. Before entering politics, he worked as a company director, freelance piano teacher and keyboardist. He was appointed as for Minister for Community Wealth and Public Finance in March 2023, and Minister for Employment and Investment in May 2024. In June 2025, he was appointed as Minister for Social Care and Mental Wellbeing.

Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise

Current role holder

Siobhian Brown MSP



Contact

Address

Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Email

scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Siobhian Brown was appointed as Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise in May 2026.

Responsibilities

Supports the [Cabinet Secretary for Education, Culture and Gaelic](#).

- early years policy
- adoption, fostering, kinship caring, looked after children
- children's rights and services
- children and young people with learning disabilities, autism, neurodivergence - policy and support
- outdoor learning and play, including playparks
- Bairn's Hoose

- child protection
- Children's Hearings
- secure care
- protection of vulnerable groups and Disclosure Scotland
- online safety

Biography

Born in London to Scottish parents, Siobhian Brown emigrated to Australia when she was four and was raised and educated in Sydney. On leaving school, she travelled the world, working in Spain, Italy and London, before settling in Scotland in 1999.

In 2010 she set up a Global Charity Benny Walk for her friend's son who died of a DIPG brain tumour at the age of five and also set up South Ayrshire Babybank .

A former South Ayrshire councillor, Ms Brown was elected to the Scottish Parliament in 2021 as MSP for Ayr. Until her ministerial appointment, she served as Convener of the COVID-19 Recovery Committee.

Away from politics, she enjoys walking the Ayrshire coast with her husband, children and Ruby the dog.

Siobhian Brown was appointed as Minister for Victims and Community Safety in March 2023 and Minister for Victims and Community Safety in May 2024.

Minister for Agriculture, Marine and the Islands

Current role holder

Jim Fairlie MSP



Contact

Address

Minister for Agriculture, Marine and the Islands
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Email

scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Jim Fairlie was appointed as Minister for Agriculture, Marine and the Islands in May 2026.

Responsibilities

Supports the [Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Rural Affairs](#).

- agriculture policy and strategy
- allotments and community food growing
- animal health and welfare
- wildlife management and crime
- cross government co-ordination on islands
- fisheries and aquaculture
- marine operations, science and compliance
- physical and marine environment, marine planning

- forestry and woodlands, including Forestry and Land Scotland and Scottish Forestry
- plant health
- crofting
- land-based learning

Biography

Jim Fairlie was born in Perth and has lived and worked in the area all his life. He began his career as a shepherd before becoming a hill farmer. He built a successful food and events-based catering business and has extensive experience in urban and rural affairs. He was elected to represent Perthshire South and Kinross-shire at the 2021 Scottish Parliament election.

He was appointed Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity in February 2024.

Minister for Europe, External Affairs and Energy

Current role holder

Stephen Gethins MSP



Contact

Address

Minister for Europe, External Affairs and Energy
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Email

scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Stephen Gethins was appointed as Minister for Europe, External Affairs and Energy in May 2026.

Responsibilities

Supports the [First Minister](#).

- external affairs
- Europe and the European Union including alignment
- Scotland's international network and Scottish connections
- oil and gas
- energy systems
- energy policy and strategy
- domestic energy efficiency
- offshore renewable energy systems

- industrial decarbonisation
- hydrogen policy, carbon capture utilisation and storage
- heat networks
- heating and domestic energy transformation
- Heat and Energy Efficiency Scotland
- decarbonisation of buildings and Heat in Buildings programme
- fuel poverty

Biography

Stephen Gethins studied Law at the University of Dundee and completed a Masters degree at the University of Kent. Before entering elected politics, he worked in the NGO sector on peace-building, arms control and democracy in areas affected by conflict, with a particular focus on Eastern Europe and the Caucasus. Stephen also worked in Brussels in the EU and at Scotland House. He later served as a Special Adviser on European and International Affairs to First Ministers Alex Salmond and Nicola Sturgeon.

Mr Gethins served as MP for North East Fife from 2015 to 2019 and then MP for Arbroath and Broughty Ferry from 2024 to 2026. Between his time as an MP, he was Professor of Practice in International Relations and served on the Senior Management Team as Assistant Vice-Principal International at the University of St Andrews.

He was elected to the Scottish Parliament as the MSP for Dundee City East in May 2026.

Minister for Public Finance

Current role holder

Hannah Mary Goodlad MSP



Contact

Address

Minister for Public Finance
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Email

scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Hannah Mary Goodlad was appointed as Minister for Public Finance in May 2026.

Responsibilities

Supports the [Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government](#) and the [Cabinet Secretary for Public Service Reform](#).

- budget revisions and outturns
- non-domestic rates and NDR business engagement
- Revenue Scotland
- community empowerment
- planning
- estates and property
- community wealth

- statutory debt management and debt relief, diligence and accountant in bankruptcy
- consumer advocacy and advice and Consumer Scotland
- Registers of Scotland
- National Records of Scotland

Biography

Hannah Mary Goodlad studied Geology and Chemistry at the University of Glasgow and completed a Masters degree in Petroleum Geology at Imperial College London.

Prior to entering politics, Ms Goodlad worked internationally in the energy industry for Norway's state energy company, Equinor and held senior leadership roles in renewables and hydrocarbons across the company. She is also co-founder of Scotland's first outdoor sauna company.

Ms Goodlad was first elected to the Scottish Parliament in May 2026 as MSP for the Shetland Islands.

Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans

Current role holder

Jamie Hepburn MSP



Contact

Address

Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Email

scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Jamie Hepburn was appointed Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans in May 2026.

Responsibilities

Supports the [First Minister](#).

- government and parliamentary business
- Scottish Parliament elections, local government elections, Boundaries Scotland
- Office of the Chief Researcher and government statistics
- Freedom of Information (FOI)
- Open Government and Citizens' Assemblies
- veterans

Biography

Jamie Hepburn was educated at Hyndland Secondary and the University of Glasgow, graduating with a degree in Politics and History.

He served as National Convener of the SNP's student and youth wings, was MSP for Central Scotland between 2007 and 2011 and has been MSP for Cumbernauld and Kilsyth since 2011. He was appointed Minister for Sport, Health Improvement and Mental Health in November 2014.

He was previously the Minister for Employability and Training and Minister for Higher Education and Further Education, Youth Employment and Training. Most recently, he was appointed Minister for Independence in March 2023.

Minister for Equalities and International Development

Current role holder

Simita Kumar MSP



Contact

Address

Minister for Equalities and International Development
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Email

scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Simita Kumar was appointed as Minister for Equalities and International Development in May 2026.

Responsibilities

Supports the [Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice and Housing](#).

- refugees, asylum seekers and displaced peoples
- New Scots strategy
- diversity, inclusion and equalities (including disability, older people, women, gender, LGBTI, religion, race, Gypsy Traveller community)
- faith and belief
- tackling Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) and Equally Safe strategy
- social isolation and loneliness strategy

- welfare and debt advice services
- international development, strategy and implementation
- Fair Trade

Biography

Born in the Fiji Islands, she moved to Scotland as a teenager. She began her career as a Modern Apprentice with Glasgow City Council, where she received a commendation award for her work. She later completed an undergraduate degree in Psychology with Criminology, followed by a Master's degree in Health Research.

Before entering elected office, Ms Kumar worked across the public and voluntary sectors from 2013 onwards. Her career included roles with NHS Lothian, Children's Health Scotland, and Public Health Scotland. She has also volunteered with charities including Victim Support & Witness Services, and ChildLine.

She was elected as a councillor for Southside/Newington in 2022 and went on to lead the SNP Group at the City of Edinburgh Council from 2024-2026.

In May 2026, she was elected to the Scottish Parliament as the MSP for Edinburgh South Western.

Outside politics, Ms Kumar is a keen rugby fan – particularly of sevens rugby – and enjoys wild swimming.

Minister for Innovation, Technology and Tertiary Education

Current role holder

Ben Macpherson MSP



Contact

Address

Minister for Innovation, Technology and Tertiary Education
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Email

scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Mr Macpherson was appointed Minister for Innovation, Technology and Tertiary Education in May 2026.

Responsibilities

Supports the [Cabinet Secretary for Education, Culture and Gaelic](#).

- apprenticeships and Skills Development Scotland
- careers and young person's transitions to work
- innovation, scientific engagement and advice
- Office of the Chief Scientific Adviser for Scotland (OCSA)
- artificial intelligence policy and strategy
- science and STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics)
- tertiary education

- adult learning and lifelong learning
- community learning and development
- international education strategy
- non-advanced vocational skills
- qualifications and accreditation
- Scottish Funding Council (SFC)
- student support
- widening access
- youth work
- young people's arts and music
- UNESCO World Heritage
- university research

Biography

He grew up in Edinburgh before studying a BA Honours degree in Philosophy and Politics at the University of York. After graduating he returned to Edinburgh and worked in a number of different roles before going on to complete a postgraduate LLB and a Diploma in Legal Practice at the University of Edinburgh. He then qualified as a solicitor and practised as a lawyer with one of Scotland's large commercial firms. As well as his legal training, he has worked in financial services, for an NGO, in renewable energy, in a school and in hospitality.

Mr Macpherson was elected in 2016 as the MSP for the Edinburgh Northern and Leith constituency, where he lives.

His previous ministerial roles included the portfolios of:

- Europe, migration and international development
- public finance and migration
- rural affairs and the natural environment
- social security and local government
- further and higher education

Beyond working and campaigning, he enjoys running, football and watching films and documentaries.

Minister for Victims and Community Safety

Current role holder

Kirsten Oswald MSP



Contact

Address

Minister for Victims and Community Safety
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Email

scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Kirsten Oswald was appointed as Minister for Victims and Community Safety in May 2026.

Responsibilities

Supports the [Cabinet Secretary for Justice](#).

- Access to Justice
- alcohol licensing
- anti-sectarianism
- anti-social behaviour
- CashBack for Communities
- community safety
- civil law and tribunals
- hate crime

- human trafficking
- legal aid
- legal profession including regulation
- victims, including Victim Notification Scheme
- Scottish Law Commission Bills

Biography

Kirsten Oswald studied Modern and Medieval History at the University of Glasgow.

Before entering elected politics, she worked in further education, including as Head of Human Resources at South Lanarkshire College, and later as a lecturer at City of Glasgow College.

Ms Oswald served as MP for East Renfrewshire from 2015 to 2017 and from 2019 to 2024, and was Deputy Leader of the SNP Group at Westminster from 2020 to 2022.

She was elected to the Scottish Parliament in May 2026 as the MSP for Eastwood.

Minister for Community Care

Current role holder

Alison Thewliss MSP



Contact

Address

Minister for Community Care
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Email

scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Alison Thewliss was appointed as Minister for Community Care in May 2026.

Responsibilities

Supports the [Cabinet Secretary for Health and Care](#).

- community care
- social care and integration, social service workforce
- community audiology, optometry, pharmacy
- dentistry
- medical records
- mobile healthcare
- MyNHS digital
- National Pharmaceutical Agency and Pharmacy First

- palliative care
- vaccination programmes
- sensory impairment/loss
- self-directed support
- care, support and rights
- adult support and protection
- Care Inspectorate
- Independent Living Fund

Biography

Alison Thewliss studied Politics and International Relations at the University of Aberdeen.

Ms Thewliss served as a Glasgow City councillor for the Calton ward from 2007 to 2015. She was elected as the MP for Glasgow Central from 2015 to 2024. While at Westminster she was SNP spokesperson for Communities and Local Government, Treasury, and Home Affairs and served on the corresponding Select Committees.

She was elected to the Scottish Parliament in May 2026 as the MSP for Glasgow Central.

Ms Thewliss enjoys spending time with her family, reading, running, and watching Motherwell FC.

Minister for Mental Wellbeing, Public Health, Sport, Alcohol and Drugs

Current role holder

Maree Todd MSP



Contact

Address

Minister for Mental Wellbeing, Public Health, Sport, Alcohol and Drugs
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Email

scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Maree Todd was appointed as Minister for Mental Wellbeing, Public Health, Sport, Alcohol and Drugs in May 2026.

Responsibilities

Supports the [Cabinet Secretary for Health and Care](#).

- public health and healthy working lives
- population health
- women's health
- abortion
- child and maternal health
- mental wellbeing policy and strategy
- Mental Welfare Commission

- child and adolescent mental health
- suicide prevention
- forensic mental health services and reform
- dementia
- augmentative and alternative communication
- social prescribing
- healthy weight
- sexual health
- reducing the harm of problem substance use and supporting the treatment rehabilitation and recovery from alcohol and/or drug dependency, reducing drug deaths
- sport and physical activity

Biography

Ms Todd grew up in the West Highlands. She attended Ullapool High School and studied pharmacy and prescribing at Robert Gordon's and Strathclyde Universities, as well as taking an ante-natal teaching diploma at the University of Bedfordshire.

A pharmacist by profession, Maree Todd worked in NHS Highland for 20 years, mainly as a mental health pharmacist in a psychiatric hospital. She also contributed to Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN) guidance on perinatal mental health.

She was previously the Minister for Children and Young People, and was appointed as Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport in March 2023. She was appointed Minister for Drugs & Alcohol Policy and Sport in June 2025.