



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

The Scottish Parliament and the Scottish Government



The Scottish Parliament is made up of 129 Members of the Scottish Parliament, elected by the people of Scotland.

The MSPs elect one MSP as First Minister, the head of the Scottish Government.

The First Minister then appoints Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers. These MSPs have two roles – as a member of the Scottish Parliament and as a member of the Scottish Government.

The Scottish Government introduces most of the bills to Parliament and is responsible for developing policies on devolved matters, to make Scotland a better place.

Once bills are passed as laws, the Government is responsible for making sure that these laws are implemented, or carried out.

The Government decides how the Scottish budget will be spent and then puts their spending plans to Parliament each year for approval.

- The Scottish Government is accountable to the Scottish Parliament; and both organisations are accountable to the people of Scotland.
- In practice, the Scottish Government is formed from the party or parties holding most seats in the Scottish Parliament.
- Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers are supported by the Scottish Government directorates, which are staffed by civil servants.

