



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

A Scottish Parliament Guide: First Minister's Questions

What is First Minister's Questions?

First Minister's Questions (FMQs) is a chance for Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs) to hold the leader of the Scottish Government, the First Minister, to account.

It takes place in the Chamber at 12 noon on Thursdays and lasts for up to 45 minutes.

How are questions chosen?

The first few questions are from the leaders of the opposition parties. They do not need to submit their questions in advance.

Other MSPs can submit one question for each FMQs. MSPs must submit their question by 12 noon on the Monday before FMQs.

The Presiding Officer chooses up to eight questions to be asked in the Chamber.

These are published in the Business Bulletin on the Scottish Parliament website on the Tuesday.

Can MSPs ask additional questions?

After asking their published question, MSPs can ask a follow-up question. This allows them to ask questions that the First Minister hasn't seen in advance.

The Presiding Officer can also call other MSPs to ask questions on the day on urgent topics or matters arising in their local area. These questions are not published in advance.

How can I follow FMQs?

You can book tickets for the public gallery, watch on the Scottish Parliament website or follow on the Parliament's Facebook page.

You can catch up by watching the archived video, reading the Official Report or listening to FMQs as a podcast.

Find out more at www.parliament.scot or email info@parliament.scot