



The Economy Bulletin brings you Scottish Government news and information to ensure you are up to date with the latest policy developments, requests for action and consultations where your views are being sought to help shape future initiatives.

Free immigration advice to Scottish employers and inward investors

Scotland's Migration Service recently launched to help employers and investors navigate the UK immigration system.

The service provides support to employers to help meet skills and labour needs, and to investors seeking immigration or legal advice on setting up a business in Scotland.

The service is open to:

- Scottish-based employers seeking to recruit talent to Scotland.
- Inward investors wanting to set up a business in Scotland.
- Overseas businesses seeking to expand in Scotland.

Through the service, businesses, employers and investors can access a free one to one advice appointment with a qualified immigration adviser from the law firm Seraphus.

Appointments can be booked [here](#).

More information on the service can be found [here](#) and any queries can be sent to migrationservice@gov.scot.

Have your say - requests for engagement and action

Your chance to contribute to a new framework to restore and improve Scotland's natural capital.

Public and private investment is needed to restore and improve our natural capital – which includes our geology, soil, air, water, plants and animals – and the Scottish Government is committed to ensuring that this investment is high integrity and responsible; contributes to a just transition, benefits communities and is environmentally sustainable.

The Natural Capital Market Framework is being developed for publication in 2024, to strengthen the existing [Interim Principles for Responsible Investment in Natural Capital](#) and set out the approach to using public spending more effectively to leverage in responsible private capital. The development team are holding a series of workshops and are currently reaching out to a wide array of stakeholders and representative organisations to secure their input to co-develop the framework.

An [engagement paper](#) has been published to support participants during the engagement process and a [participant survey](#) is now live for those who are unable to join a workshop to provide us with their views.

Please contact PINC@gov.scot for information on upcoming workshops.

The Scottish Parliament is [calling for evidence on the new Housing \(Scotland\) Bill](#)

The Bill was informed by three public consultations and will now be scrutinised by the Scottish Parliament.

If passed, the Bill will enable the delivery of the commitment for longer-term private sector rent controls; tenants' rights and other protections; and duties aimed at the prevention of homelessness.

Stakeholders have until 17 May to provide feedback.

If you need more information contact housing.legislation@gov.scot

A German retail chain is looking to work with British companies offering AI solutions for the retail industry.

They are looking to identify innovation solutions for use in stores and other locations and are interested in all kinds of AI solutions relevant to the retail sector.

These include:

- innovative anti-theft surveillance systems
- AI-based systems to facilitate retail workflows
- inventory control
- customised promotions

They are open to working with start up companies and more information is available [here](#).

Synthesis of business conditions

The Scottish Government has published its latest synthesis of business conditions as part of its monthly report on the economy.

The report is available [here](#). Businesses can also share sectoral intelligence with the Scottish Government by emailing StrategicRelationships@gov.scot.

Non-Domestic Rates guide available

A short guide to Non-Domestic Rates and Reliefs 2024-25 has been developed.

The guide provides an overview of the NDR rates and reliefs available in 2024-25 and includes links to further sources of information.

Resources for business to support employees to manage menopause and menstrual health in the workplace

A Menopause and Menstrual Health Workplace Policy has been developed for NHS Scotland.

Businesses can use it as an example of good practice and adapt it to suit their needs.

Having effective support in place for those experiencing menopausal or menstrual symptoms can help to improve team morale, retain valuable skills and talent, address inequalities and reduce sickness absence.

More information, including a line managers guide and a workplace adjustments guide, can be found on [The National Wellbeing Hub](#).

Flexible Working Legislation for Business

New UK Government legislation on Employment Relations (Flexible Working) Act 2023 has come into force.

Key changes include:

- From day one of employment, employees have the statutory right to request a change to their terms and conditions relating to hours, times or place of work.
- Employees can now make two flexible working requests in a 12-month period.
- Employers are now required to make a decision within two months of receiving a request.
- Employers will be required to consult with their staff before rejecting a flexible working request based on one of the eight business reasons.

An [Employer code of practice](#) to accompany the new law is available, as is more information on [how flexible working can benefit businesses](#). Information on trends and benefits of flexible working in Scotland can also be found on the [Flexibility Works website](#).

To add further contacts from your organisation to the mailing list or unsubscribe please email: EconomyStakeholderUpdateMailbox@gov.scot