



# Economy Bulletin

The Economy Bulletin brings you Scottish Government news and information to ensure you are up to date with the latest policy developments.

## Scotland's National Innovation Week

Scotland's National Innovation Week runs from 22 September to 26 September.

The centrepiece will be the National Innovation Summit, taking place on 25 September, which brings together Scotland's innovation ecosystem, reinforcing the country's position as a globally recognised innovation nation.

If your organisation is interested in hosting an event, or already has something planned that could align with National Innovation Week, please contact [Ross MacSween](#).

## UK - India Free Trade Agreement signature

Some of Scotland's most important industries will benefit from a new Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the UK and India.

The deal is set to improve market access across sectors with tariffs slashed on imports of Scotch Whisky into India from 150% to 75% on day one of entry into force, with staged reductions down to 40% over 10 years.

You can find the impact assessment, which sets out the potential economic, sectoral, distributional and environmental impacts of this [FTA here](#) and contact [Grant Wallace, FTA Coordination Team](#), with any questions.

## Non-Domestic Rates Revaluation 2026 pre-agreements

Proprietors, tenants and occupiers of non-domestic properties can pre-agree their rateable value with Assessors in advance of the 2026 Revaluation which takes effect from 1 April 2026.

The pre-agreement period closes on 20 February 2026. Guidance for those wishing to engage in pre-agreements is available [here](#).

## Introduction to Artificial Intelligence (AI) for small businesses

A practical webinar exploring how AI can help improve business marketing is being offered by Business Gateway.

The event takes place on 11 August 2025. More information and registration is [available here](#).

## CivTech Round 11.5 applications now open

Applications are open for the next Round of [CivTech](#), a Scottish Government programme that drives innovation in the public sector.

Innovators, start-ups, SME's and established businesses can [apply for Round 11.5](#) which seeks innovative technology solutions to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Scottish Government's impact assessment processes.

The closing date is 2 September 2025. There will be an [online Q&A session](#) on Wednesday 13 August 2025 where interested parties can find out more information.

## Employing People with lived and living experience of substance use

Businesses are invited to review and endorse a set of ['Guiding Principles'](#) which will support employing people with experience of substance use.

A [support toolkit for Employers](#) has also been developed to help businesses attract, recruit and support employees.

Any business or organisation agreeing to endorse the principles will be recognised on the Scottish Government website. Contact [drugsandalcoholworkforce@gov.scot](mailto:drugsandalcoholworkforce@gov.scot) to do so.

## Webinar: navigating the new skilled worker salary rules

A free webinar hosted by [Scotland's Migration Service](#) is being run to help Scottish employers understand the changes to the Skilled Worker visa route introduced in July 2025.

The session will cover changes to the eligible occupation list and increased salary thresholds, as well as practical legal guidance from immigration experts at Seraphus.

The [webinar](#) will take place on 17 September.

## Help for businesses to support employees who foster

The [Fostering Network](#) and [Kinship](#) are providing employers with practical resources and guidance to become Foster and Kinship Friendly.

Supporting employees with fostering and care responsibilities can lead to less workforce attrition and a more loyal workforce.

[The Kinship toolkits](#) offer actionable steps to help organisations create a more supportive and inclusive culture for employees who provide kinship care to children and young people.

Employers can also contact the [FosteringFriendly@fostering.net](mailto:FosteringFriendly@fostering.net) for more information on becoming Foster Friendly.

## Scotland's Climate Week

Businesses are encouraged to take part in Scotland's Climate Week which runs from 29 September – 5 October.

Whether pledging climate action, hosting internal events, or amplifying messages online, organisations can play a vital role in driving positive change in an area that matters to employees and customers.

Read more here about [how to get involved](#) or contact [sgmarketing@gov.scot](mailto:sgmarketing@gov.scot) for further information.

## Have your say – requests for engagement and action

### Views sought on Public Health Scotland's new strategy

Views from the business community are sought to support the development of Public Health Scotland's new strategy for 2025–2035.

The strategy will look at improving public health through a range of measures, including tackling the economic factors which lead to poor health.

Improving health can have a wide variety of benefits for businesses, including increased productivity, less sick days taken and people remaining economically active for longer.

Businesses can [respond to the consultation here](#) until 29 August.

### Non Domestic Rates Consultation

A consultation on the potential introduction of fees for appeals on non-domestic rating valuations lodged with the Local Taxation Chamber is underway.

More information is [available here](#). Responses can be submitted until 8 October 2025.

### UK Government review into the parental leave and pay system

Employers are invited to [submit evidence to a UK Government review](#) into parental leave and pay entitlements.

The review will consider how the parental leave and pay system could be improved to better support working families and meet the needs of the modern economy.

The closing date is 23:59 on 25 August 2025. [Further information](#) is available here.