

Save the date: SICI Workshop Scotland-Edinburgh

Standing International Conference of Inspectorates (SICI)

Scotland Workshop 2026

Dates: 30 September – 2 October 2026

Venue: Scottish Gas Murrayfield, Edinburgh, Scotland. Roseburn St, Edinburgh EH12 5PJ

Hosted by: His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE)

Theme: Embedding Learner Voice in Policy, Practice and Inspection

Workshop Purpose

This workshop will bring together inspectorates from across Europe and beyond. Delegates will explore how the learner voice can be meaningfully embedded within education systems, policy development, professional practice and inspection approaches. The event will provide opportunities for inspectorates to share evidence, challenge assumptions, compare approaches and learn from one another's experience.

The workshop will focus on how inspection can both evaluate and promote learner participation, ensuring that the views and experiences of learners contribute to educational improvement, equity and excellence.

Draft Programme

Wednesday 30 September 2026 (18:00 start TBC) Cultural Evening (optional)

Purpose: Building professional networks and fostering collaboration between participating inspectorates.

Optional Evening Meal

If sufficient delegates have arrived and would like to dine together, a suitable restaurant will be arranged. Delegates wishing to attend should notify us in advance, as numbers will need to be confirmed with the venue. Please note that the cost of this meal will be met by those attending and not HMIE. Joe Mulholland will co-ordinate the restaurant booking and will be there to welcome delegates on arrival.

Thursday 1 October 2026

09:00 – 17:00

Welcome and Registration

Official Welcome from Ruth Binks His Majesty's Chief inspector

Keynote Address TBC

Presentation and discussions schedule TBC

Purpose: Examining how different inspectorates gather, interpret and use learner evidence to support improvement. The workshop format aligns with SICI's emphasis on collaborative professional learning and international knowledge exchange.

Murrayfield Stadium Experience (Tour)

Gala Dinner

Friday 2 October 2026

09:00 – 12:00

Presentations and Collaborative Discussions

12:00 – 12:30

Workshop Conclusions and Key Messages

12:30 – 13:30

Lunch and Close

Purpose: Consolidating learning and identifying practical actions that participants can take back to their own inspectorates.

What Delegates Will Gain

Delegates will:

Gain insight into innovative approaches to learner participation from a range of international inspectorates.

Explore how learner voice can strengthen inspection approaches, frameworks, evidence and improve evaluation quality.

Develop a deeper understanding of policy and practice that support meaningful learner engagement.

Exchange practical tools, approaches and methodologies with experienced professionals from across the SICI network.

Build international professional relationships and opportunities for future collaboration.

Reflect on how inspection systems can support greater equity, inclusion and learner-centred improvement.

Leave with practical ideas that can be adapted and implemented within their own national contexts.

Travel and Accommodation

Hotels

Delegates are expected to arrange their own hotel accommodation. We cannot offer discounted hotel rates. Edinburgh is a very popular destination and consequently hotels do not need to offer discounted rates. Most hotels in and around the city will be close by to Murrayfield Stadium, however delegates should take care to check distances between their hotel and the venue. There are expensive and less expensive hotels in Edinburgh City Centre. The less expensive will likely be: Premier Inn, Travelodge, Ibis, and Holiday Inn Express.

Travel

Delegates flying to Scotland should plan to arrive through Edinburgh Airport. Glasgow Airport would not be suitable as it does not have the same transport infrastructure.

Getting from Edinburgh Airport to Murrayfield Stadium

- Trams are one of the easiest ways to get to and from the airport with fast and frequent services to Edinburgh city centre and onwards to Newhaven. Trams depart every 7 minutes, between 7am and 7pm, and every 10 minutes early in the morning and later in the evening. The first tram of the day departs the airport at 06:26, and the last tram departs at 22:48. There is a dedicated tram stop opposite the main entrance
- Tram access from Edinburgh Airport, to Murrayfield, Haymarket, Princes Street & Waverley. Haymarket and Waverly have train stations if you book a hotel outside of the city centre
- Murrayfield is 6 miles from the Airport

- Murrayfield is 1 mile from Haymarket Station
- Murrayfield is 2 miles from Princes Street
- City Cycle Hire Station beside stadium
- Murrayfield has complimentary on-site parking
- Edinburgh is also well served by taxis including Uber

Useful Links

[Getting Around Edinburgh - Edinburgh's Public Transport System](#)

[Getting to Scottish Gas Murrayfield – Scottish Rugby](#)

Trams

[Timetables | Edinburgh Trams](#)

Buses

[Timetables - Lothian Buses](#)

Finally, if you are physically fit and want to walk from your hotel to the venue, the venue is around 2 miles from Princes Street. Do take care to know your way!

Princes Street begins at the west end of Edinburgh city centre, very close to Haymarket, although the exact Western starting point is generally considered to be Lothian Road/Shandwick Place and the West End junction, which is about a 5–10 minute walk East of Haymarket Station. The Western edge of Princes Street is beside the former Caledonian Hotel (now the Waldorf Astoria) at the West End. Edinburgh Castle is to the right of this picture just out of shot. This is a useful landmark for navigating your way around.

