



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 1, No. 14, Session 7

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 17 June 2026

Note: (DT) signifies a decision taken at Decision Time.

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Justice, and then on Health and Care, were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.

2. Affordable Bus Fares: The Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Tourism and Transport (Stephen Flynn) moved S7M-00367—That the Parliament recognises the importance of affordable bus services connecting people to employment, education and essential services; welcomes the success of the free bus schemes available to 2.4 million people, including all those aged under 22, over 60 and disabled people; believes that more can be done to make it easier and cheaper for everyone to get around and supports, therefore, the phased rollout of a £2 bus fare cap, building on its introduction in the Highlands and Islands; endorses the introduction of the £2 cap in Glasgow, Ayrshire, Dunbartonshire, Renfrewshire, Lanarkshire and Inverclyde as quickly as is practicable as part of the next phase of a national rollout, and welcomes the opportunity to develop Better Buses legislation in the current parliamentary session to support the delivery of affordable fares nationally and foster new routes, not least in rural areas.

Graham Simpson moved amendment S7M-00367.1—

As an amendment to motion S7M-00367 in the name of Stephen Flynn (Affordable Bus Fares), insert at end "; believes that any such legislation should aim to streamline the process of introducing franchising, and calls on the Scottish Government to speed up its work on introducing multi-modal smart ticketing across Scotland.

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 23, Against 78, Abstentions 15).

Daniel Johnson moved amendment S7M-00367.3—

As an amendment to motion S7M-00367 in the name of Stephen Flynn (Affordable Bus Fares), insert at end ", and calls on the Scottish Government to take active steps to make bus franchising a reality, by providing the funding and support necessary for Regional Transport Partnerships to fully and more rapidly exercise the powers set out in the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019, and to advance public control of farebox revenue so that Scotland's passengers, not private operators, benefit from a restored public bus network."

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 84, Against 26, Abstentions 9).

Craig Hoy moved amendment S7M-00367.4—

As an amendment to motion S7M-00367 in the name of Stephen Flynn (Affordable Bus Fares), leave out from "believes that" to end and insert "considers that a functioning bus network should be centred on affordability and reliability and that competition between different providers is the most effective way to achieve this; notes with concern the deteriorating provision of bus services across Scotland, including the numerous routes, particularly in rural areas, that have had their service levels reduced or removed; warns that the expansion of concessionary bus travel could increase the risk of inequality in access to bus services between urban and rural areas; calls on the Scottish Government to take greater action to protect bus drivers and tackle anti-social behaviour on buses, and agrees with the views that the regulations and code of conduct implemented in the previous parliamentary session to remove passes from passengers who commit anti-social behaviour are not strong enough."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 10, Against 107, Abstentions 0).

The motion, as amended, was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 93, Against 26, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament recognises the importance of affordable bus services connecting people to employment, education and essential services; welcomes the success of the free bus schemes available to 2.4 million people, including all those aged under 22, over 60 and disabled people; believes that more can be done to make it easier and cheaper for everyone to get around and supports, therefore, the phased rollout of a £2 bus fare cap, building on its introduction in the Highlands and Islands; endorses the introduction of the £2 cap in Glasgow, Ayrshire, Dunbartonshire, Renfrewshire, Lanarkshire and Inverclyde as quickly as is practicable as part of the next phase of a national rollout; welcomes the opportunity to develop Better Buses legislation in the

current parliamentary session to support the delivery of affordable fares nationally and foster new routes, not least in rural areas, and calls on the Scottish Government to take active steps to make bus franchising a reality, by providing the funding and support necessary for Regional Transport Partnerships to fully and more rapidly exercise the powers set out in the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019, and to advance public control of farebox revenue so that Scotland's passengers, not private operators, benefit from a restored public bus network.

3. Appointment of Law Officers: The First Minister (John Swinney) moved S7M-00380—That the Parliament agrees that it be recommended to His Majesty that Ruth Charteris KC be appointed as the Lord Advocate and that Brian (BJ) Gill KC be appointed as Solicitor General for Scotland.

The motion was agreed to (by division: For 102, Against 16, Abstentions 0).

4. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S7M-00377—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 23 June 2026

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by General Questions

followed by First Minister's Questions (Backbench Members)

followed by Ministerial Statement: Non-Domestic Rates Reform

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Meeting the Challenge of Climate Change

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.30 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 24 June 2026

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Climate Action and Rural Affairs; Education, Culture and Gaelic

followed by Reform UK Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.30 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 25 June 2026

1.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

1.30 pm General Questions

2.00 pm First Minister's Questions (Party Leaders)

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Achieving a Sustainable Prison Population

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Tuesday 1 September 2026

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by General Questions

followed by First Minister's Questions (Backbench Members)

followed by Scottish Government Business

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.30 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 2 September 2026

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Social Justice and Housing; Economy, Tourism and Transport

followed by Scottish Government Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.30 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 3 September 2026

1.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

1.30 pm General Questions

2.00 pm First Minister's Questions (Party Leaders)

followed by Scottish Government Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

(b) that, for the purposes of Portfolio Questions in the week beginning 22 June 2026, in rule 13.7.3, after the word "except" the words "to the extent to which the Presiding Officer considers that the questions are on the same or similar subject matter or" are inserted.

The motion was agreed to.

5. Suspension and Variation of Standing Orders: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S7M-00378—That the Parliament –

(a) under Rule 17.2.1(b) to suspend and vary Standing Orders as follows for the purpose of Decision Time (or any other item of business which involves decisions being taken other than at Decision Time)—

for Rule 11.5.1 substitute:

"1. Subject to paragraph 1A, only members have a right to vote at a meeting of the Parliament. A member is not obliged to vote.

1A. A member who is participating in the meeting remotely (on a platform provided by the Parliamentary corporation) from outside the United Kingdom has the right to vote only if the member has, prior to the beginning of the meeting, obtained the permission of the Presiding Officer to do so."

(b) that the suspension and variation set out in paragraph (a) shall have effect from 22 June 2026 and remain in effect until 31 January 2027 or such earlier date as the Parliament may decide, on a motion by the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

6. Designation of Lead Committee: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S7M-00379—That the Parliament agrees that the Economy, Tourism and Energy Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the legislative consent memorandum on the Sporting Events Bill.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

7. Suspension of Standing Orders: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S7M-00397— That the Parliament agrees that, for the purposes of consideration of the legislative consent memorandum on the Steel Industry (Nationalisation) Bill, Rule 9B.3.5 of Standing Orders is suspended.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 108, Against 10, Abstentions 0).

8. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 2, 5, 6 and 7 as noted above.

9. The Cost of Undiagnosed ADHD or Autism in Outcomes and Life Chances: The Parliament debated S7M-00314 in the name of Helen McDade—That the Parliament recognises the increasing demand for ADHD and autism assessments among both children and adults across Scotland, including in Mid Scotland and Fife; acknowledges that over 50% of individuals with ADHD are also autistic; notes that previous diagnostic criteria prevented dual diagnoses, contributing to the historic and systemic under-diagnosis of adults; further notes that the most up-to-date Scottish ADHD prescription data shows that only 0.17% of adults are currently receiving treatment compared with the diagnosed expectancy of 4%; highlights that neurodivergent people comprise 25% of the Scottish prison population and up to 20% of mental health inpatients, and notes the view that early identification, assessment and support can lead to better life outcomes.

The meeting closed at 6.43 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
17 June 2026

Appendix

(Note: this Appendix does not form part of the Minutes)

Legislative Consent Memorandum

The following memorandum was lodged on 17 June 2026—

Neil Gray, Cabinet Secretary for Justice: Legislative Consent Memorandum on the National Security (State Threats) Bill (UK Parliament legislation) (LCM-S7-4)

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 17 June 2026 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

HMICS Strategic review of policing the Commonwealth Games 2026 (HMICS/2026/05) laid under section 79(3) of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012

Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner Annual Report 2025-2026 (SG/2026/152) laid under Section 42 (11)(b) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015

Scottish Public Services Ombudsman: Compendium of Case Reports for June 2026 (SPSO/2026/05) laid under Sections 15(1) and 15(1A) of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002

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