



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 1, No. 15, Session 7

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 18 June 2026

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

The meeting opened at 1.30 pm.

- 1. General Questions:** Questions were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and Ministers.
- 2. First Minister's Questions (Party Leaders):** Questions were answered by the First Minister (John Swinney).
- 3. Ministerial Statement:** The Minister for Europe, External Affairs and Energy (Stephen Gethins) made a statement and answered questions on 10th Anniversary of the UK Referendum on EU Membership.
- 4. Ministerial Statement:** The Minister for Public Finance (Hannah Mary Goodlad) made a statement and answered questions on Provisional Outturn 2025-26.
- 5. Ministerial Statement:** The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice and Housing (Shirley-Anne Somerville) made a statement and answered questions on Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan - Annual Progress Report 2025-26.
- 6. Decision Time:** There were no decisions to be taken at Decision Time today.
- 7. Sustaining Jobs and Securing the Future of Scotland's Universities:** The Parliament debated S7M-00266 in the name of Maggie Chapman—That the Parliament expresses its deep concern at what it sees as the growing crisis facing Scotland's higher education sector, including the reported threat of significant job

losses at the University of Dundee, the University of Aberdeen and other institutions across Scotland; notes reports that hundreds of jobs have already been lost at Dundee, and that up to 111 academic posts are threatened at Aberdeen as part of ongoing restructuring and cost-reduction programmes; recognises the anxiety, uncertainty and distress that these proposals are causing for staff, students and communities; further recognises the evidence of declining staff morale across the sector, with, it understands, many workers reporting exhaustion, insecurity and a loss of confidence in institutional leadership and governance; believes that those who teach, research, support students, maintain campuses and sustain university life should not be made to pay the price for failures of governance, financial mismanagement or short-term decision making; notes reported concerns regarding increasing casualisation, workload pressures, threats to pensions and job insecurity across the sector; further notes the calls on university leadership teams, governing bodies and the Scottish and UK governments to work collaboratively with staff and students with Fair Work principles as their foundation, to develop long-term solutions that protect jobs, safeguard teaching and research, strengthen transparency and accountability, and secure a sustainable future for what it considers is Scotland's vital higher education sector.

8. Motion without Notice: Maggie Chapman moved without notice that, under Rule 8.14.3, the debate be extended by up to 30 minutes.

The motion was agreed to.

The meeting closed at 5.20 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
18 June 2026

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

Subordinate Legislation

Negative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 18 June 2026 and is subject to the negative procedure—

Act of Sederunt (Fees of Messengers-at-Arms and Sheriff Officers) 2026 (SSI 2026/208)

laid under section 28(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010.

Laid Only Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 18 June 2026 and is not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Non-surgical Procedures and Functions of Medical Reviewers (Scotland) Act 2026 (Commencement No. 1 and Saving Provision) Regulations 2026 (SSI 2026/206 (C. 21))

laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

Other Documents

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 18 June 2026 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Best Start, Bright Futures: Tackling Child Poverty Progress Report 2025-2026 (SG/2026/146) laid under Section 10(7) of the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017

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