



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 1, No. 16, Session 7

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 23 June 2026

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

**1. Time for Reflection:** George Black CBE, Chair of the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games, led Time for Reflection.

**2. Suspension of Standing Orders:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn) moved S7M-00457—That the Parliament agrees that, for the purposes of consideration of the legislative consent memorandum on the National Security (State Threats) Bill, Rule 9B.3.5 of Standing Orders is suspended.

The motion was agreed to.

**3. Revision to Business Programme:** The Minister for Business and Fair Work (Tom Arthur) moved S7M-00458—That the Parliament agrees to the following revisions to the programme of business for—

(a) Tuesday 23 June 2026—

after

Scottish Government Debate: Meeting the Challenge of Climate Change

insert

*followed by* Motion on Legislative Consent: Steel Industry (Nationalisation) Bill – UK

Legislation

delete

5.30 pm Decision Time

and insert

6.00 pm Decision Time

(b) Wednesday 24 June 2026—

after

Reform UK Debate: Scotland Needs Reform: Five Years to 2031

insert

*followed by* Motion on Legislative Consent: National Security (State Threats) Bill –

UK Legislation

delete

5.30 pm Decision Time

and insert

6.00 pm Decision Time

(c) Thursday 25 June 2026—

after

Scottish Government Debate: Achieving a Sustainable Prison Population

insert

*followed by* Ministerial Statement: NHS Capital Projects

*followed by* Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body Motion: Membership of the Scottish Commission for Public Audit

delete

5.00 pm Decision Time

and insert

5.05 pm Decision Time

The motion was agreed to.

**4. General Questions:** Questions were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.

**5. First Minister's Questions (Backbench Members):** Questions were answered by the First Minister (John Swinney).

**6. Ministerial Statement:** The Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government (Jenny Gilruth) made a statement and answered questions on Non-Domestic Rates Reform.

**7. Meeting the Challenge of Climate Change:** The Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Rural Affairs (Gillian Martin) moved S7M-00434—That the

Parliament recognises that climate change constitutes an emergency; supports the goal to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius; notes the consequences of climate change that are currently impacting populations and places around the world; condemns any spread of misinformation about and denial of the impacts of climate change that undermine the evidence base; reaffirms Scotland's commitment to delivering ambitious climate action and achieving net zero by 2045, in line with its statutory carbon budget targets; agrees on the need to enhance Scotland's climate resilience and adaptation efforts to safeguard people, communities, public services and ecosystems from the impacts of climate change; welcomes the transformative opportunities presented by climate action, including significant economic, social, environmental and public health benefits, and acknowledges that delivery of the transition must be fair and inclusive for all.

Claire Baker moved amendment S7M-00434.2—

As an amendment to motion S7M-00434 in the name of Gillian Martin (Meeting the Challenge of Climate Change), insert at end "; recognises that, in order to meet the 2030 targets and beyond, the pace of change has to accelerate, acknowledging that, if pace continues at the current rate, targets will be missed; calls on the Scottish Government to publish detailed plans on how it will meet interim targets, and further calls on the Scottish Government to move at pace to bring forward retrofitting and other measures to tackle fuel poverty and help Scotland reach its climate targets."

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 92, Against 27, Abstentions 0).

Duncan Massey moved amendment S7M-00434.4—

As an amendment to S7M-00434 in the name of Gillian Martin (Meeting the Challenge of Climate Change), leave out from "recognises" to end and insert "believes that there are significant risks to the economy from over-reacting and declaring an imminent emergency which is not underpinned by scientific data; notes that Scotland is facing an economic growth challenge and that current net zero policies are contributing to unsustainable cost increases and expensive energy, which are in turn contributing to deindustrialisation, the loss of jobs and an increase to the cost of living; agrees that Scotland needs pragmatic, sensible and proportionate policies that balance the economy and achieve cheap and abundant energy with long-term reduction of emissions, and resolves that Scotland must maximise its North Sea oil and gas resources in the short to medium term, whilst planning for the long term by investing in reliable, large-scale solutions such as nuclear power, with renewables continuing to play an important but complementary role."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 17, Against 102, Abstentions 0).

Mark Ruskell moved amendment S7M-00434.3—

As an amendment to motion S7M-00434 in the name of Gillian Martin (Meeting the Challenge of Climate Change), insert at end "; recognises that, despite a media backlash, a majority of the public continues to back strong climate action, especially young people; further recognises that local communities and workers must have a meaningful participatory role in developing and implementing local climate action, with the costs spread fairly across society; recognises that the latest Scottish Greenhouse Gas statistics indicate that progress to reduce emissions has flatlined in key sectors including agriculture, buildings and transport; believes that there must be no drilling of new fossil fuels reserves, in line with advice from the International Energy Agency; considers the Scottish Government's Climate Change Plan to be undermined by a significant reliance on as-yet unproven technological solutions, including carbon capture and storage, and that the Scottish Government must develop an alternative pathway to meeting its net zero targets."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 15, Against 104, Abstentions 0).

Finlay Carson moved amendment S7M-00434.5—

As an amendment to motion S7M-00434 in the name of Gillian Martin (Meeting the Challenge of Climate Change), leave out from "that climate change" to end and insert "the reality and impacts of climate change and supports an affordable transition to net zero; understands that Scotland is committed to reaching net zero by 2045; raises significant concern over the findings of the Climate Change Committee that meeting this target will require significant and far-reaching changes across the economy, including major reductions in domestic oil and gas production, substantial changes in agriculture and livestock numbers, rapid acceleration in the uptake of electric vehicles and the expensive mass installation of heat pumps in homes across the country; recognises that public confidence in climate policy depends on targets being credible, achievable and supported by clear delivery plans; calls on the Scottish Government to set out clearly, honestly and in full, how it plans to meet its 2045 targets, including the practical steps required, the trade-offs involved, and the real impact on jobs, households, businesses and communities; emphasises that Scotland's transition to net zero must be grounded in economic reality, protecting jobs, strengthening energy and food security and supporting sustainable economic growth; recognises the vital contribution of Scotland's farmers, crofters, land managers, gamekeepers, fishing industry and rural and island communities in protecting the natural environment; supports the continued responsible extraction of oil and gas from the North Sea as part of a managed transition, recognising its importance to Scotland's economy, energy security and skilled workforce, and rejects virtue signalling in favour of a practical, transparent and accountable approach to climate policy."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 27, Against 92, Abstentions 0).

The motion, as amended, was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 92, Against 27, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament recognises that climate change constitutes an emergency; supports the goal to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius; notes the consequences of climate change that are currently impacting populations and places around the world; condemns any spread of misinformation about and denial of the impacts of climate change that undermine the evidence base; reaffirms Scotland's commitment to delivering ambitious climate action and achieving net zero by 2045, in line with its statutory carbon budget targets; agrees on the need to enhance Scotland's climate resilience and adaptation efforts to safeguard people, communities, public services and ecosystems from the impacts of climate change; welcomes the transformative opportunities presented by climate action, including significant economic, social, environmental and public health benefits; acknowledges that delivery of the transition must be fair and inclusive for all; recognises that, in order to meet the 2030 targets and beyond, the pace of change has to accelerate, acknowledging that, if pace continues at the current rate, targets will be missed; calls on the Scottish Government to publish detailed plans on how it will meet interim targets, and further calls on the Scottish Government to move at pace to bring forward retrofitting and other measures to tackle fuel poverty and help Scotland reach its climate targets.

**8. Steel Industry (Nationalisation) Bill - UK Legislation:** The Minister for Business and Fair Work (Tom Arthur) moved S7M-00454—That the Parliament, noting that the Steel Industry (Nationalisation) Bill, introduced in the House of Commons on 14 May 2026, makes provision that falls within the legislative competence of the Parliament, agrees to give consent to such provision as is made by clauses 1-7, 9-23, 25-43, 45-59 and 61-64.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 93, Against 10, Abstentions 15).

**9. Decision Time:** The Parliament took decisions on items 7 and 8 as noted above.

**10. Save STV North News:** The Parliament debated S7M-00227 in the name of Jack Middleton—That the Parliament condemns Ofcom's reported decision to approve controversial plans to end STV's dedicated news coverage for the North of Scotland; acknowledges that the plans were strongly opposed by the Scottish Government, MSPs from five political parties, STV workers and the general public; notes reports that a survey of viewers across North Scotland found that only 4% were in favour of the plans, and further notes the calls on television regulator, Ofcom, to urgently reconsider this decision.

**11. Motion without Notice:** Jack Middleton 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 7.24 pm.

**David McGill**

Clerk of the Parliament  
23 June 2026

## **Appendix**

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

### **Committee Reports**

The following report was published on 23 June 2026—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 1st Report, 2026, (Session 7): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 23 June 2026 (SP Paper 2)

### **Legislative Consent Memorandums**

The following memorandum was lodged on 19 June 2026—

Stephen Flynn, Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Tourism and Transport: Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Commercial Payments Bill (UK Parliament legislation) (LCM-S7-5)

The following memorandum was lodged on 23 June 2026—

Angela Constance, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Care: Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Health Bill (UK Parliament legislation) (LCM-S7-6)

### **Other Documents**

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 19 June 2026 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**Scottish National Adaptation Plan - Annual Progress Report 2025-2026 (SG/2026/141)** laid under section 54 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

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