



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 1, No. 17, Session 7

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 24 June 2026

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Climate Action and Rural Affairs, and then on Education, Culture and Gaelic, were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.

2. Scotland Needs Reform: Five Years to 2031: Malcolm Offord moved S7M-00446—That the Parliament believes that strong and sustained economic growth is the foundation of a successful nation, where everyone can feel hope that effort will be rewarded, with opportunities and high-quality services for all; recognises that the Scottish Government's policy choices are constraining economic growth, including Scotland becoming the highest-taxed part of the UK, which risks disincentivising work and investment and undermining confidence in the economy; further recognises that high quality jobs and opportunities provide more than just tax for the Government, as the loss of purpose experienced through unemployment or not being able to use their skills in work is a major factor behind the reported rising mental health crisis; further recognises that economic growth depends on a diverse range of pathways into employment, not solely through university, and calls for greater emphasis on apprenticeships that provide real skills and faster entry into the workforce, alongside a broader subject offer in schools, including targeted action to be directed at core literacy due to one in four primary school aged children still not reaching expected levels of literacy; acknowledges that net zero will come to describe the level of economic growth should current environmental policy continue on its current trajectory; considers that economic growth also relies on secure, affordable and reliable energy, and that increasing North Sea production is essential for price stability and security of supply as part of a broad, market-driven energy mix;

believes that too many net zero policies such as low emission zones are a regressive tax for those on lower incomes, which only further harms individual opportunities and economic growth; further believes that sustainable economic growth requires public policy that commands broad confidence and is grounded in evidence, and notes concerns that recent policy approaches, including on gender have alienated a majority of people, and failed some of those they were intended to benefit; considers that Lady Ross's landmark legal ruling on transgender prison guidance is a condemnation of the deviation from evidence backed policy and must be swiftly complied with; recognises that population policy and migration must support economic sustainability and public services, and calls, therefore, for the use of devolved powers to reduce incentives for illegal migration, such as through not allowing non-citizens access to social housing or Scottish welfare, and to ensure that limited public resources are focused on supporting economic participation and long-term growth.

The Minister for Business and Fair Work (Tom Arthur) moved amendment S7M-00446.2—

As an amendment to motion S7M-00446 in the name of Malcolm Offord (Scotland Needs Reform: Five Years to 2031), leave out from first "believes" to end and insert "condemns xenophobia, racism and hatred in society, including recent instances of intimidation, violence and disorder; further condemns the actions and language of those who seek to stoke such sentiments and division; agrees that such beliefs and actions do not reflect those of the vast majority of people living in Scotland, who value being a welcoming nation; welcomes the valuable contribution that migrants make to Scotland's communities and economy; reaffirms the Scottish Parliament's commitment to human rights and equality for all; supports an economy that gives opportunities and helps to deliver investment through progressive taxation to sustain the public services on which everyone relies, and recognises the economic opportunity that a just transition can offer to Scotland through investment and innovation."

Daniel Johnson moved amendment S7M-00446.1—

As an amendment to motion S7M-00446 in the name of Malcolm Offord (Scotland Needs Reform: Five Years to 2031), leave out from "strong and sustained economic growth" to end and insert "only by fundamentally reducing inequality and creating an economy that works for everyone will Scotland be able to tackle division and hatred; condemns racism in all its forms and rejects a politics that aims to pit people against each other, exaggerating differences and exploiting disillusionment for personal political gain; agrees that building a fairer and more prosperous Scotland will depend on delivering economic growth that creates wealth and opportunities across the country and uses progressive taxation to fund strong public services; rejects the wasteful and short-sighted approach of the Scottish Government, which leaves working people in Scotland paying more but feeling like they are getting less in return, and believes that a better future for Scotland is possible but will depend on the Scottish Government finally unblocking housebuilding, reforming the skills system to support industry and workers and creating the energy jobs of the future so that the next generation continues to be better off than the last."

Murdo Fraser moved amendment S7M-00446.3—

As an amendment to motion S7M-00446 in the name of Malcolm Offord (Scotland Needs Reform: Five Years to 2031), leave out from "believes" to end and insert "agrees that strong economic growth is essential to raising living standards, creating jobs and funding high-quality public services; notes with concern that, after nearly two decades of a Scottish National Party administration, Scotland continues to suffer from weak growth, low business confidence and poor productivity; further notes that Scotland has become the highest-taxed part of the UK, leaving workers paying more and making Scotland less competitive for investment, jobs and enterprise; recognises that Scotland's economic prospects are strengthened by its place in the UK, which remains Scotland's largest market and provides the stability, scale and security that businesses need to invest; believes that the Scottish Government should use the powers of the Scottish Parliament to grow the economy, lower the tax burden and support business, rather than pursue constitutional division, and calls on the Scottish Government to focus on making Scotland more competitive, more productive and more attractive as a place to work, invest and do business."

Willie Rennie moved amendment S7M-00446.4—

As an amendment to motion S7M-00446 in the name of Malcolm Offord (Scotland Needs Reform: Five Years to 2031), leave out from first "recognises" to end and insert "; further believes that Scottish Government policy should work for every region of Scotland, with adequate public transport links, infrastructure and housing to meet the needs of communities and both traditional and emerging sectors of the economy; recognises the need for a dynamic and skilled workforce, as well as significant and targeted investment in Scotland's world-class colleges and universities; further recognises that skilled inward migration is vital to sustaining key sectors of the economy; understands that the crisis in the NHS will only be addressed when considered alongside the crisis in the social care sector, and that migration is a key aspect of addressing those challenges; believes that Scotland has a proud history of offering safe harbour to refugees from across the world, and resolves to strive for a Scotland that protects the rights and interests of all, regardless of who they are or where they come from."

After debate, amendment S7M-00446.2 was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 75, Against 25, Abstentions 17).

As a result, amendments S7M-00446.1, S7M-00446.3 and S7M-00446.4 were pre-empted.

The motion, as amended, was then agreed to ((DT) by division: For 91, Against 27, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament condemns xenophobia, racism and hatred in society, including recent instances of intimidation, violence and disorder; further condemns the actions and language of those who seek to stoke such sentiments and division; agrees that such beliefs and actions do not reflect those of the vast majority of people living in Scotland, who value being a welcoming nation; welcomes the valuable contribution that migrants make to Scotland's communities and economy; reaffirms the Scottish Parliament's commitment to human rights and equality for all; supports an economy that gives opportunities and helps to deliver investment through progressive taxation to sustain the public services on which everyone relies, and recognises the economic opportunity that a just transition can offer to Scotland through investment and innovation.

3. National Security (State Threats) Bill – UK Legislation: The Cabinet Secretary for Justice (Neil Gray) moved S7M-00461—That the Parliament, noting that the National Security (State Threats) Bill, introduced to the House of Commons on 9 June 2026, makes provision that alters the executive competence of the Scottish Ministers, agrees to give consent to such provision as made by paragraph 5 to the Schedule to the Bill.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 102, Against 1, Abstentions 15).

4. Revision to Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S7M-00463—That the Parliament agrees to the following revisions to the programme of business for Thursday 25 June 2026—

after

Parliamentary Bureau Motions

insert

followed by Oaths and Affirmations

delete

1.30 pm General Questions

2.00 pm First Minister's Questions (Party Leaders)

insert

followed by General Questions

followed by First Minister's Questions (Party Leaders)

delete

5.05 pm Decision Time

and insert

5.10 pm Decision Time

The motion was agreed to.

5. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S7M-00462—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of 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

Tuesday 8 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 9 September 2026

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Deputy First Minister Responsibilities, Finance and Local Government, Parliamentary Business and Veterans; Public Service Reform, Europe, External Affairs and Energy

followed by Scottish Government Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.30 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 10 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 31 August 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.

6. Designation of Lead Committee: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S7M-00463—That the Parliament agrees that the Criminal Justice Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the supplementary legislative consent memorandum on the Armed Forces Bill.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

7. Motion Without Notice: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved without notice that, under Rule 11.2.4, Decision Time be brought forward to 5.46 pm.

The motion was agreed to.

8. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 2, 3 and 6 as noted above.

9. Nuclear Power in Scotland: The Parliament debated S7M-00258 in the name of Liam Kerr—That the Parliament considers that nuclear power in Scotland produces cheap, dependable and green electricity; notes the findings of the Nuclear Industry Association that Torness Nuclear Power Station, which is set to cease production in 2030, has generated 307 TWh of clean electricity since 1988, which it believes is sufficient to power every home in the country for 36 years, and has averted a minimum of 101 million tonnes of CO2 emissions; understands that nuclear power brings significant financial benefits and supports hundreds of jobs and contractors; believes that Scotland's civil nuclear industry could have supported over 10,000 jobs if the sector had experienced the same growth rate as that in England; considers that the "no new nuclear" position of the Scottish Government has led to an exodus of workers from Scotland; recognises calls from the Nuclear Industry Association for the Scottish Government to end its political opposition to nuclear power in order that this can form part of a balanced energy mix that it considers the country needs, alongside its North Sea oil and gas industry; notes the view that this must be supported, encouraged and no longer subject to a presumption against oil and gas, and further notes the view that the Scottish Government must act decisively to protect jobs, deliver energy security and provide cheaper energy by unlocking nuclear energy production in Scotland.

The meeting closed at 6.46 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
24 June 2026

Appendix

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

Legislative Consent Memorandum

The following memorandum was lodged on 24 June 2026—

Jenny Gilruth, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government: Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Representation of the People Bill (UK Parliament legislation) (LCM-S7-7)

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 24 June 2026 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Climate Change Committee: Progress in reducing emissions - 2026 report to Parliament (SG/2026/132) laid under section 36(1) of the Climate Change Act 2008

HM Fire Service Inspectorate: Operational Training and Development in the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SG/2026/116) laid under section 43C(5) of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005

HM Fire Service Inspectorate: Planning and Preparedness of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service for the XXIII (23rd Edition) Commonwealth Games 2026 SG/2026/126 laid under section 43C(5) of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005

Investigation into the effectiveness and enforcement of engine idling laws in Scotland (ESS/2026/03) laid under 29(b) of the European Union (Continuity) (Scotland) Act 2021

Post-school education and skills reform: A report prepared for the Auditor General for Scotland (AGS/2026/5) laid under the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Scottish Biometrics Commissioner – Outcomes Report 2021/25 (SBC/2026/02) laid under Section 20(2) of the Scottish Biometrics Commissioner Act 2020

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