



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 1, No. 5, Session 7

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 27 May 2026

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Ministerial Statement: The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice and Housing (Shirley-Anne Somerville) made a statement and answered questions on First Homes Fund.

2. Expanding Childcare: The Cabinet Secretary for Education, Culture and Gaelic (Màiri McAllan) moved S7M-00128—That the Parliament believes that every child deserves the best start in life and that a child's earliest years are crucial in their development; recognises the importance of high quality, accessible and affordable childcare in tackling poverty, supporting employment opportunities for parents, supporting child development and driving inclusive economic growth; acknowledges the Scottish Government's investment in early learning and childcare to date, and supports its aim to extend year-round childcare support to every child from nine months old to the end of primary school.

Katherine Sangster moved amendment S7M-00128.2—

As an amendment to motion S7M-00128 in the name of Màiri McAllan (Expanding Childcare), leave out from "acknowledges" to end and insert "further recognises that the Scottish Government needs to do more to reduce the costs of childcare for working parents, improve the flexibility of the childcare system, support childminders and give parents more choice and control over the childcare that works for their family, and calls on it to set out a fully costed delivery plan and timeline for its commitment to extend year-round childcare support to every child from nine months old to the end of primary school.

Maggie Chapman moved amendment S7M-00128.1—

As an amendment to motion S7M-00128 in the name of Màiri McAllan (Expanding Childcare), insert at end "and further agrees that as a first step towards this expansion, the Scottish Government and COSLA must work together to ensure that cross-border placements are available across Scotland, that all children can access the current funded hours the week rather than term after the child's relevant birthday, and that the required flexibility in provision will only be achieved with proper workforce planning."

Meghan Gallacher moved amendment S7M-00128.4—

As an amendment to motion S7M-00128 in the name of Màiri McAllan (Expanding Childcare), leave out from "acknowledges" to end and insert "notes with concern that many families still face limited availability and choice of early learning facilities and high childcare costs, which is a barrier particularly for mothers seeking to return to work; understands that the funded childcare current model has resulted in wage inequalities, a severe decline in childminders and unfair distribution of funding between local authority-run nurseries and the private, voluntary and independent sector; believes that, should the Scottish Government wish to extend childcare policy, it should fix the current funding model and address staff shortages within the sector, and calls on the Scottish Government to publish a clear and properly-funded timetable for expanding childcare support from nine-months-old, with reassurances of working with the sector, detailing any learnings from the pilot scheme they said they would introduce in 2023."

Willie Rennie moved amendment S7M-00128.3—

As an amendment to motion S7M-00128 in the name of Màiri McAllan (Expanding Childcare), leave out from "and supports" to end and insert "but notes that parents must be provided with the choice that they were promised as part of the rollout of 1,140 hours of funded childcare by introducing fairer rates for private, voluntary and independent providers to cover the actual costs of delivering high-quality early learning and childcare (ELC); believes that working families need to be prioritised in any extension of ELC funding, starting with shifting the 1,140 funded hours to start on a child's third birthday, thus treating this as a critical part of our economic infrastructure that would help parents return to work, close the gender pay gap and raise additional tax revenues; calls for local authorities to be brought together to strike a partnership agreement that ensures parents who live in one council area but work in another have choice on where their child attends nursery, thus guaranteeing that funding really does follow the child; considers that childcare options in remote and rural areas can be more limited; therefore believes that there needs to be a new support package for childminders in these areas, and calls on the Scottish Government to make sure that there is no postcode lottery for childcare in Scotland."

After debate, amendment S7M-00128.2 was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 84, Against 16, Abstentions 18). As a result, amendments S7M-00128.4 and S7M-00128.3 were pre-empted.

Amendment S7M-00128.1 was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 104, Against 16, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament believes that every child deserves the best start in life and that a child's earliest years are crucial in their development; recognises the importance of high quality, accessible and affordable childcare in tackling poverty, supporting employment opportunities for parents, supporting child development and driving inclusive economic growth; further recognises that the Scottish Government needs to do more to reduce the costs of childcare for working parents, improve the flexibility of the childcare system, support childminders and give parents more choice and control over the childcare that works for their family; calls on it to set out a fully costed delivery plan and timeline for its commitment to extend year-round childcare support to every child from nine months old to the end of primary school, and further agrees that as a first step towards this expansion, the Scottish Government and COSLA must work together to ensure that cross-border placements are available across Scotland, that all children can access the current funded hours the week rather than term after the child's relevant birthday, and that the required flexibility in provision will only be achieved with proper workforce planning.

3. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S7M-00151—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 2 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: Phone Free Classrooms

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Summer of Sport

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.30 pm Decision Time

Wednesday 3 June 2026

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Investing, Protecting and Renewing Scotland's NHS

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Thursday 4 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: Wealth Taxation for Public Services

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 9 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 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 10 June 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 Labour Party Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.30 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 11 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 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 8 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.

4. Office of the Clerk: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S7M-00152—That the Parliament agrees that between 1 June 2026 and 31 January 2027, the Office of the Clerk will be open on all days except: Saturdays and Sundays, 11 September, 27 November, 24 December (pm) 25 and 28 December 2026, and 1 and 4 January 2027.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

5. Parliamentary Recess Dates: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S7M-00153—That the Parliament agrees the following parliamentary recess dates under Rule 2.3.1: 27 June to 30 August 2026 (inclusive), 10 to 25 October 2026 (inclusive), 19 December 2026 to 3 January 2027 (inclusive).

The motion was agreed to (DT).

6. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 2, 4 and 5 as noted above.

The meeting closed at 5.16 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
27 May 2026

Appendix

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

Other Documents

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 27 May 2026 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Criminal courts backlog follow-up: A report prepared for the Auditor General for Scotland (AGS/2026/4) laid under the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

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