The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minutes of Proceedings

Parliamentary year 1, number 48, Session 7

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 19 November 2026

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

The meeting opened at 1:30pm.

1. General Questions: Questions were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.

2. First Minister's Questions (Party Leaders): Questions were answered by the First Minister (John Swinney).

3. Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body Questions: Questions were answered by members of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body.

4. Prevention and Preventative Budgeting: Cabinet Secretary for Public Service Reform (Ivan McKee) moved S7M-02089—That the Parliament recognises that accelerating the shift towards prevention is essential to improving outcomes for people and communities and securing the long-term sustainability of public services in Scotland; welcomes action through the Public Service Reform Strategy to embed prevention, including through the establishment of the Prevention Unit, the development of preventative budgeting approaches and the implementation of a Prevention Investment Framework; further welcomes the Scottish Government's work to shift to action, including support for families and childcare, action to improve population health through earlier intervention and more community-based care, and the exploration of investment approaches, such as Social Impact Partner's Investment, which focus on early intervention and prevention, and supports continued collaboration across all levels of government, public services, communities, the third sector and other partners to make prevention a central principle of public service reform, budgeting and investment in Scotland.

> Joe Fagan moved S7M-02089.1—As an amendment to motion S7M-02089 in the name of Ivan McKee (Prevention and Preventative Budgeting), insert at end "; notes that it is 15 years since the publication of the Christie Commission report on the future delivery of public services and that its vision has not been delivered to its full potential; believes that information on preventative spending and outcomes arising from such spending should be transparent and accessible, and considers that public service reform should prioritise prevention, improved outcomes and action to address the drivers of demand, including

health inequalities, over administrative restructuring.”

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 93, Against 21, Abstentions 0).

David Smith moved S7M-02089.3—As an amendment to motion S7M-02089 in the name of Ivan McKee (Prevention and Preventative Budgeting), leave out from first "welcomes" to end, and insert "recognises the good intentions behind the Scottish Government's prevention and preventative budgeting proposals, but expresses concern that there are no published outcomes against which progress can be assessed; agrees that effective scrutiny requires benchmarks for success to be defined in advance, and not subsequently and selectively choosing comparators that might only show an unduly positive outcome; recognises that, for preventative measures to be effective, measures that bring stability to services also need to be implemented; acknowledges that requiring frontline workers to follow additional new processes while they are working through a service crisis could be counterproductive, and further acknowledges that the current environment created by the cost of living crisis has a negative impact on mental and physical health in the workplace, and that measures to tackle the cost of living crisis can themselves constitute preventative measures that could reduce demand on public services."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 12, Against 102, Abstentions 0).

Lorna Slater moved S7M-02089.2—As an amendment to motion S7M-02089 in the name of Ivan McKee (Prevention and Preventative Budgeting), insert at end "; recognises the importance of preventative spending in tackling health inequalities, including through increasing access to screening and early diagnosis programmes; further recognises that a flourishing natural environment can boost health and wellbeing and that investment in green spaces, safer streets, active travel and measures to mitigate the impact of climate shocks constitutes preventative spending that can help create healthier, more prosperous communities that are better able to respond to social, economic and climate challenges.”

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 93, Against 21, Abstentions 0).

Craig Hoy moved S7M-02089.4—As an amendment to motion S7M-02089 in the name of Ivan McKee (Prevention and Preventative Budgeting), leave out from the first “welcomes” to end and insert “regrets that the Scottish Government has still not clearly defined 'preventative spend' and has repeatedly reduced financial support for services intended to stop problems from becoming crises; believes that ministers too often respond to failure with new strategies and spending commitments rather than tackling rising demand; considers that genuine prevention means stronger families and safer, healthier communities, helping more people into work and supporting effective local services; notes Audit Scotland’s concerns regarding one-off funding streams, declining health capital budgets and difficulties tagging complex social care versus health spending, which collectively undermine efforts to achieve a whole-system shift, and calls on the Scottish Government to prioritise proven early intervention that reduces future pressure on public services and the public finances.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 29, Against 84, Abstentions 0).

The motion, as amended, was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 93, Against 21, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament recognises that accelerating the shift towards prevention is essential to improving outcomes for people and communities and securing the long-term sustainability of public services in Scotland; welcomes action through the Public Service Reform Strategy to embed prevention, including through the establishment of the Prevention Unit, the development of preventative budgeting approaches and the implementation of a Prevention Investment Framework; further welcomes the Scottish Government's work to shift to action, including support for families and childcare, action to improve population health through earlier intervention and more community-based care, and the exploration of investment approaches, such as Social Impact Partner's Investment, which focus on early intervention and prevention; supports continued collaboration across all levels of government, public services, communities, the third sector and other partners to make prevention a central principle of public service reform, budgeting and investment in Scotland; notes that it is 15 years since the publication of the Christie Commission report on the future delivery of public services and that its vision has not been delivered to its full potential; believes that information on preventative spending and outcomes arising from such spending should be transparent and accessible; considers that public service reform should prioritise prevention, improved outcomes and action to address the drivers of demand, including health inequalities, over administrative restructuring; recognises the importance of preventative spending in tackling health inequalities, including through increasing access to screening and early diagnosis programmes, and further recognises that a flourishing natural environment can boost health and wellbeing and that investment in green spaces, safer streets, active travel and measures to mitigate the impact of climate shocks constitutes preventative spending that can help create healthier, more prosperous communities that are better able to respond to social, economic and climate challenges.

5. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on item 4 as noted above.

6. Brain Tumour Tissue Preservation and Patient Choice in Scotland: The Parliament debated S7M-01170 in the name of Jenni Minto—That the Parliament notes concerns raised by the Campaign for Owain's Law regarding what it sees as substantial variation in the fresh-freezing of brain tumour tissue following surgery across NHS Scotland; notes research by the campaign indicating that around a quarter (23%) of specimens reported across Scotland's four main neuro-oncology NHS boards in 2025 were fresh-frozen, with significant variation between centres; understands that, once sufficient tissue for diagnosis has been secured, fresh-freezing suitable remaining tumour tissue can preserve future opportunities for advanced testing, personalised treatments, clinical trials and research; notes the view that diagnosis must always come first and that not every specimen will be suitable for freezing; considers that substantial variation in practice risks creating a postcode lottery in whether potentially valuable tissue is preserved; notes the belief

that patients should receive clear and consistent information and meaningful choice regarding the storage and future use of their tissue, and further notes the calls for a consistent national approach to brain tumour tissue preservation across Scotland, including in the Argyll and Bute constituency, under which suitable remaining tissue is routinely fresh-frozen where clinically feasible, patient choice is protected and preserved tissue can better support future treatment, testing and research.

The meeting closed at 5:50pm.

David McGill

Clerk of the Parliament

20 November 2026

Appendix

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

Subordinate Legislation

Not subject to any parliamentary procedure

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 19 November 2026 and are not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Act of Adjournal (Criminal Procedure Rules 1996 Amendment) (Criminal Justice Modernisation and Abusive Domestic Behaviour Reviews (Scotland) Act 2025) 2026 (SSI 2026/345)
laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010.

Scottish Languages Act 2025 (Commencement No. 3) Regulations 2026 (SSI 2026/342 (C. 41))
laid under section 30 of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010.

Air Departure Tax (Scotland) Act 2017 (Commencement No. 2) Regulations 2026 (SSI 2026/343 (C. 42))
laid under Section 30(1) and (2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010.

Circular Economy (Scotland) Act 2024 (Commencement No. 3) Regulations 2026 (SSI 2026/344 (C. 43))
laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010.

Legislative Consent Memorandum

The following memorandum was lodged on 19 November 2026—

Neil Gray, Cabinet Secretary for Justice: Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Immigration and Asylum Bill (UK Parliament legislation) (LCM-S7-9a)

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 19 November 2026 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Independent Monitoring Authority's Annual Report to the Specialised Committee on Citizens' Rights established under the Withdrawal Agreement and the Joint Committee established under the EEA EFTA Separation Agreement (SG/2026/223) laid under Paragraph 31 of Schedule 2 to the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020

Scottish Legal Complaints Commission Annual Report 2025/2026

(SG/2026/244) laid
under Section 16(4) of Schedule 1 of the Legal Profession and Legal Aid (Scotland) Act 2007

Scottish Legal Complaints Commission Annual Report and Accounts Year ended 30 June 2026 (SG/2026/245) laid
under Section 15(2) of Schedule 1 of the Legal Profession and Legal Aid (Scotland) Act 2007 and section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

The 2025-26 audit of the Scottish Government Consolidated Accounts (SG/2026/192) laid
under Section 20 subsection 6 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

The Scottish Government Consolidated Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2026 (SG/2026/190) laid
under Section 20 subsection 6 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

The Scottish Road Works Commissioner Annual Report and Accounts 2025-26 (SG/2026/130) laid
under section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 19 November 2026—

Economy, Tourism and Energy Committee, 8th Report, 2026 (Session 7): Economy, Tourism and Energy Committee: Report on pre-budget scrutiny in advance of the of the draft 2027/28 budget (SP Paper 46)

Criminal Justice Committee, 3rd Report, 2026 (Session 7): Criminal Justice Committee: Report on Pre-budget scrutiny of the 2027-28 Scottish budget - Justice portfolio resilience, reform and resource allocation (SP Paper 48)

Transport Committee, 2nd Report, 2026 (Session 7): The HGV Speed Limit (Variation) (Scotland) Regulations 2026 [draft] (SP Paper 49)

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