The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minutes of Proceedings

Parliamentary year 1, number 40, Session 7

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 3 November 2026

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

The meeting opened at 2:00pm.

1. Time for Reflection: Rev Neil Gardner Minister, Canongate Kirk, led Time for Reflection.

2. General Questions: Questions were answered by Cabinet Secretaries, Ministers and the Lord Advocate.

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

4. Ministerial Statement: The Deputy First Minister made a statement and answered questions on Supporting Victims of Domestic Abuse: Taking Action to Support Those Affected by Council Tax Debt.

5. Supporting Young People to Participate in the Labour Market: Minister for Business and Fair Work (Thomas Arthur) moved S7M-01838—That the Parliament believes that every young person should have the opportunity to realise their potential and participate fully in the labour market; recognises that providing young people with the best start to their working lives is critical to Scotland's future economic prosperity; welcomes the fact that 95.7% of young people are going into positive destinations such as work, training, college or university three months after leaving school; welcomes the commitment to deliver at least 150,000 apprenticeships during the current parliamentary session; recognises the importance of ensuring that people receive the right support at the right time to progress towards and within work; welcomes the commitment to review employability services in order to maximise effectiveness of support; acknowledges that some young people face additional barriers to making successful transitions from secondary education and that targeted, person-centred support is essential to helping them overcome these challenges, and supports continued action to ensure that every young person, regardless of background or circumstance, is supported to achieve a positive and sustained destination in education, training or employment.

> Daniel Johnson moved S7M-01838.5—As an amendment to motion S7M-01838 in the name of Tom Arthur (Supporting Young People to Participate in the Labour Market), insert at end "; is concerned by figures indicating that as many

as one in six young people in Scotland are not in education, work or training; believes that there is a need to simplify vocational qualifications, to create lifelong learning pathways and to support the development of flexible courses that can be tailored to individuals and businesses, and calls on the Scottish Government to draw up proposals to devolve funding for lifelong learning and skills to regional leaders to bring together colleges, employers and training providers, to ensure that people are equipped with the skills industry needs and that local communities share in the benefits of investment."

After debate, the amendment was agreed to (DT).

Angela Ross moved S7M-01838.4—As amendment to motion S7M-01838 in the name of Tom Arthur (Supporting Young People to Participate in the Labour Market), leave out from first “welcomes” to end and insert “is concerned that thousands of young Scots remain detached from employment, education or training, despite years of Scottish Government promises; expresses concern that the Scottish Government has been unable to produce comparative not in education, employment or training (NEET) figures for all 16- to 24-year-olds in Scotland, instead relying on more favourable data from a narrower age range; notes that the Annual Population Survey indicates that one in six 16- to 24-year-olds in Scotland has NEET status; believes that a generation is being failed by a system that too often leaves young people without purpose, direction or hope for the future; recognises that work must be the surest route to financial independence and prosperity for young people, and believes that people should keep more of the money they earn and that every young person should have a clear pathway from education to productive employment, financial independence and economic security.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 14, Against 105, Abstentions 0).

Iris Duane moved S7M-01838.2—As an amendment to motion S7M-01838 in the name of Tom Arthur (Supporting Young People to Participate in the Labour Market) insert at end "; agrees that the UK Government must act immediately to end age-based minimum wage discriminatory bands to ensure that young workers are paid a fair wage, and notes the need to establish a minimum standard for apprenticeships to ensure effective quality control and fair treatment for apprentices."

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 77, Against 25, Abstentions 14).

Rachael Hamilton moved S7M-01838.3—As an amendment to motion S7M-01838 in the name of Tom Arthur (Supporting Young People to Participate in the Labour Market), leave out from first “welcomes” to end and insert “notes that, despite high rates of positive destinations, the proportion of school leavers entering employment has fallen; believes that the best way to support young people into work is to create a strong economy in which businesses can afford to hire and invest; regrets the decline in Modern Apprenticeship starts and the reduction in college-based skills training in Scotland despite continued employer demand for skills; questions the ambition of a target for 150,000 apprenticeships over the current parliamentary session, given that this is close to what the existing annual provision would already deliver; calls on the Scottish

Government to reduce the cost of doing business, to expand apprenticeship opportunities and to rebuild vocational education, and believes that employability support should focus on helping those who face genuine barriers into work rather than imposing further costs and interventions on employers."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 25, Against 94, Abstentions 0).

Liam McArthur moved S7M-01838.1—As an amendment to motion S7M-01838 in the name of Tom Arthur (Supporting Young People to Participate in the Labour Market), insert at end "; notes with concern that the number of 16 to 24-year-olds who are economically inactive because of health reasons reached 26,300 in 2024-25, more than double the figure recorded a decade earlier; further notes that the number of modern apprenticeship starts fell to 24,849 in 2025-26 and remains below pre-pandemic levels despite a shortage of skilled workers constraining Scotland's economy; recognises the need for improved data to better understand the barriers preventing many young people from participating in the labour market, and further recognises the importance of improving mental health services and neurodevelopmental assessment and support in order to enable young people to achieve their potential."

After debate, the amendment was agreed to (DT).

The motion, as amended, was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 80, Against 23, Abstentions 13).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament believes that every young person should have the opportunity to realise their potential and participate fully in the labour market; recognises that providing young people with the best start to their working lives is critical to Scotland's future economic prosperity; welcomes the fact that 95.7% of young people are going into positive destinations such as work, training, college or university three months after leaving school; welcomes the commitment to deliver at least 150,000 apprenticeships during the current parliamentary session; recognises the importance of ensuring that people receive the right support at the right time to progress towards and within work; welcomes the commitment to review employability services in order to maximise effectiveness of support; acknowledges that some young people face additional barriers to making successful transitions from secondary education and that targeted, person-centred support is essential to helping them overcome these challenges; supports continued action to ensure that every young person, regardless of background or circumstance, is supported to achieve a positive and sustained destination in education, training or employment; is concerned by figures indicating that as many as one in six young people in Scotland are not in education, work or training; believes that there is a need to simplify vocational qualifications, to create lifelong learning pathways and to support the development of flexible courses that can be tailored to individuals and businesses; calls on the Scottish Government to draw up proposals to devolve funding for lifelong learning and skills to regional leaders to bring together colleges, employers and training providers, to ensure that people are equipped with the skills industry needs and that local communities share in the benefits of investment; agrees that the UK Government must act immediately to end

age-based minimum wage discriminatory bands to ensure that young workers are paid a fair wage; notes the need to establish a minimum standard for apprenticeships to ensure effective quality control and fair treatment for apprentices; notes with concern that the number of 16 to 24-year-olds who are economically inactive because of health reasons reached 26,300 in 2024-25, more than double the figure recorded a decade earlier; further notes that the number of modern apprenticeship starts fell to 24,849 in 2025-26 and remains below pre-pandemic levels despite a shortage of skilled workers constraining Scotland's economy; recognises the need for improved data to better understand the barriers preventing many young people from participating in the labour market, and further recognises the importance of improving mental health services and neurodevelopmental assessment and support in order to enable young people to achieve their potential.

6. Sporting Events Bill - UK Legislation: Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Tourism and Transport (Stephen Flynn) moved S7M-01837—That the Parliament, noting that the Sporting Events Bill, introduced in the House of Lords on 14 May 2026, makes provision that falls within the legislative competence of the Parliament and alters the executive competence of the Scottish Ministers, agrees to give consent to such provision as is made by clauses 1 to 13, clauses 18 to 31, and Schedules 1, 2, 3 and 6.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

7. Committee Membership: Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S7M-01862—That the Parliament agrees that—

Claire Baker be appointed to replace Carol Mochan as a member of the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee;

Joe Fagan be appointed to replace Michael Marra as a member of the Finance and Public Administration Committee;

Donald MacKinnon be appointed to replace Claire Baker as a member of the Climate Action Committee; and

Carol Mochan be appointed to replace Joe Fagan as a member of the Public Service Reform Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

8. Substitution on Committees: Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S7M-01863—That the Parliament agrees that—

Mark Griffin be appointed to replace Jackie Baillie as the Scottish Labour Party substitute on the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee;
Carol Mochan be appointed to replace Paul Sweeney as the Scottish Labour Party substitute on the Economy, Tourism and Energy Committee;
Carol Mochan be appointed to replace Joe Fagan as the Scottish Labour Party substitute on the Finance and Public Administration Committee;

Claire Baker be appointed to replace Carol Mochan as the Scottish Labour Party substitute on the Social Justice, Housing and Local Government Committee;
Paul Sweeney be appointed to replace Monica Lennon as the Scottish Labour Party substitute on the Transport Committee;
Paul Sweeney be appointed to replace Donald MacKinnon as the Scottish Labour Party substitute on the Climate Action Committee;
Joe Fagan be appointed to replace Michael Marra as the Scottish Labour Party substitute on the Public Service Reform Committee;
Neil Bibby be appointed to replace Katherine Sangster as the Scottish Labour Party substitute on the Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee; and
Claire Baker be appointed to replace Jenny Young as the Scottish Labour Party substitute on the Education and Gaelic Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

9. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 5, 6, 7 and 8 as noted above.

10. Hospice Care Week 2026 - Don't Leave Hospice Care to Chance: The Parliament debated S7M-00981 in the name of Bob Doris—That the Parliament looks forward to this year's Hospice Care Week campaign by Hospice UK, taking place from 5 to 11 October 2026, with this year's theme being Don't Leave Hospice Care To Chance; values the important and compassionate work that is carried out by hospices across Scotland, with the majority of hospice care being delivered in the community; recognises the demographic challenges that are anticipated in the coming years, with research estimating that 10,000 additional people will be in need of palliative care in Scotland by 2048; notes the belief that there will need to be strong partnership and strategic planning in order to respond to such demographic challenge; welcomes the cross-party consensus in the last session of Parliament on the need to further support the palliative and end of life sector, and notes the belief that a constructive cross-party and cross-sector approach will be vital in this current session of the Scottish Parliament to build on that consensus and more importantly to best deliver for individuals approaching end of life, as well as their families.

11. Motion without notice: Bob Doris 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 6:53pm.

David McGill

Clerk of the Parliament

4 November 2026

Appendix

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

Subordinate Legislation

Subject to affirmative procedure

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 2 November 2026 and are subject to the affirmative procedure—

Companies Act 2006 (Scottish public sector companies to be audited by the Auditor General for Scotland) Order 2027 (SSI 2026/Draft)
laid under section 483(5) of the Companies Act 2006.

Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 (Thresholds) Amendment Order 2027 (SSI 2026/Draft)
laid under section 44(2) of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014.

Subject to negative procedure

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 30 October 2026 and is subject to the negative procedure—

The Mobile Homes (Written Statement) (Scotland) Regulations 2026 (SSI 2026/320)
The SSI is being laid under section 1(10) of the Mobile Homes Act 1983.

Not subject to any parliamentary procedure

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 30 October 2026 and is not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

The Fuel Poverty (Targets, Definition and Strategy) (Scotland) Act 2019 (Commencement No. 3) Regulations 2026 (SSI 2026/319 (C. 35))
The SSI is being laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010.

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 30 October 2026 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Draft Report by The Scottish Ministers on The Exercise of The Power in Section 1(1) Of the UK Withdrawal from The European Union (Continuity) (Scotland) Act 2021 For the Reporting Period 1 September 2025 – 31 August 2026 and The Intended Future Use of the Power Under Section 1(1) In the Upcoming Reporting Period 1 September 2026 – 28 March 2027 (SG/026/282) laid under section 11(1)(a) of the UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Continuity) (Scotland) Act 2021

Education Scotland Annual Report and Accounts 2025-2026 (SG/2026/127) laid under section 19(4) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Environmental Standards Scotland Annual Report and Accounts 1 April 2025 to

31 March 2026 (ESS/2026/04) laid
under Schedule 1(12)(1) of the UK Withdrawal for the European Union (Continuity) (Scotland) Act 2021

Ethical Standards Commissioner Annual Report and Accounts 2025/26 (SG/2026/284) laid
under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Highlands and Islands Enterprise Annual report and Accounts 2025/26 (SG/2026/196) laid under Section 30 of the Enterprise and New Towns (Scotland) Act 1990

Scottish Human Rights Commission Annual Report 2025-26 (SG/2026/280) laid
under Section 15(1) of the Scottish Commission for Human Rights Act 2006

Scottish Human Rights Commission Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2026 (SG/2026/279) laid
under Section 22 (5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Scottish Police Authority Annual Report and Accounts 2025-26 (SG/2026/232) laid
under section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

The Scottish Civil Estate 2025-26: The Sixteenth report on the performance and environmental sustainability of the Scottish Civil Estate (SG/2026/251) laid
under Section 76 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 2 November 2026 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Dumfries and Galloway NHS Board Annual Report and Accounts For Year Ended 31 March 2026 (SG/2026/257) laid
under Section 22 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 200

Forth Valley NHS Board Annual Report and Accounts 2025/26 (SG/2026/259) laid
under Section 22 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

NHS Ayrshire and Arran Annual Report & Accounts 2025/26 (SG/2026/255) laid
under Section 22 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

NHS Borders Annual Report & Accounts 2025/26 (SG/2026/256) laid under Section 22 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

NHS Fife Annual Report and Consolidated Accounts For the Year Ended 31 March 2026 (SG/2026/258) laid
under Section 22 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Revenue Scotland Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2026 - Resource Accounts (RS/2026/01) laid
under the Revenue Scotland and Tax Powers Act 2014

Revenue Scotland Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2026 – Devolved Taxes Accounts (RS/2026/02) laid
under the Revenue Scotland and Tax Powers Act 2014

Risk Management Authority Annual Report and Accounts 2025-2026 (SG/2026/115) laid
under Section 13(2) of the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2003

Scrutiny report on draft provisions proposed for inclusion in the draft Social Security (Up-rating) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2027 (SCoSS/2026/02) laid
under sections 22 and 97 of the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 3 November 2026 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Consumer Scotland Annual Report and Accounts 2025-2026 (CS/2026/04) laid under
subsection (1) (b) of section 16 of the Consumer Scotland Act 2020

Grampian Health Board (Commonly known as NHS Grampian) Annual Report and Accounts Year Ended 31 March 2026 (SG/2026/260) laid
under Section 22 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Annual Report and Consolidated Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2026 (SG/2026/261) laid
under Section 22 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

NHS Highland Annual Report & Accounts 2025/26 (SG/2026/262) laid
under Section 22 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

NHS Lanarkshire Annual Report & Accounts For Year Ending 31 March 2026 (SG/2026/263) laid
under section 22 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

NHS Lothian Annual Report and Accounts Year ended 31 March 2026 (SG/2026/264) laid
under Section 22 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Review of Joint and Several Liability for Council Tax Arrears: Final Report (SG/2026/252) laid
under section 76 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2025

Scottish Legal Aid Board Annual Report and Accounts For the year ended 31 March 2026 (SG/2026/157) laid
under Section 5(7) of the Legal Aid (Scotland) Act 1986 and Section 22(5) of the Public Accountability and Finance (Scotland) Act 2000

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 30 October 2026—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 14th Report, 2026 (Session 7): Commercial Payments Bill (UK Parliament legislation) delegated powers exercisable within devolved competence, with reference to LCM-S7-5, LCM S7-5a and LCM S7-5b.

The following report was published on 2 November 2026—

Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee, 3rd Report, 2026 (Session 7): Pre-Budget Scrutiny 2027-28: Women's Poverty (SP Paper 38)

The following reports were published on 3 November 2026—

Climate Action Committee, 1st Report, 2026 (Session 7): Pre-budget scrutiny 2027-28: the Joint Budget Review
(SP Paper 34), publication date: 3 November 2026

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee, 2nd Report 2026 (Session 7): Stage 1 Report - The Scottish Local Government Elections (Candidacy Rights of Commonwealth Citizens) Bill (SP Paper 36)

Finance and Public Administration Committee, 3rd Report 2026 (Session 7): Prebudget scrutiny 2027-27: Affordability and sustainability of Scotland's tax and spending plans (SP Paper 37)

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