The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minutes of Proceedings

Parliamentary year 1, number 41, Session 7

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 4 November 2026

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

The meeting opened at 2:00pm.

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. Economic Growth and Prosperity: Angela Ross moved S7M-01851—That the Parliament notes Scotland's weak economic growth, stagnant living standards and persistent fiscal deficit; believes that successive Scottish Government decisions to increase public spending and impose higher tax burdens have failed to deliver sufficient economic growth, productivity improvements or rising prosperity; recognises the need to support more young people into work, to improve business productivity, to help Scottish firms grow and scale up, and to strengthen food and energy security, and calls on the Scottish Government to present to Parliament detailed proposals to create more wealth, capture more value from Scotland's economy and retain more of that wealth for the benefit of the people and businesses of Scotland.

> Minister for Business and Fair Work (Thomas Arthur) moved S7M-01851.3—As an amendment to motion S7M-01851 in the name of Angela Ross (Economic Growth and Prosperity), leave out from “notes” to end and insert “recognises the importance of improving living standards, creating opportunities for young people, supporting fair work and higher wages, and strengthening public services, to Scotland’s economy; agrees that Scotland must make full use of its economic strengths, including its renewable energy resources, highly-skilled workforce, world-class universities and colleges and thriving business sectors; believes that Scotland’s vast energy potential must deliver economic benefits directly to people who live in Scotland by bringing down bills; condemns the economic damage caused by Brexit, and agrees that rejoining the EU is the best way to deliver lasting benefits for Scotland’s economy.”
>
> After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 66, Against 49, Abstentions 0). As a result, amendments S7M-01851.5, S7M-01851.2, S7M-01851.4 and S7M-01851.1 were pre-empted.
>
> Daniel Johnson moved S7M-01851.5—As an amendment to motion S7M-01851

in the name of Angela Ross (Economic Growth and Prosperity), leave out from “notes” to end and insert “believes that a growing and innovative Scottish economy depends on the strength of both its public and private sectors, working in partnership to create prosperity and opportunity for all; recognises that investment in health, housing, education, skills, transport infrastructure, roads and local government provides the foundations for thriving businesses, successful industries and productive workplaces, and calls on the Scottish Government to tackle waste, to prioritise outcome-focused public service reform and delivery over bureaucracy and to ensure that decisions about public spending are taken locally wherever possible.”

Patrick Harvie moved S7M-01851.2—As an amendment to motion S7M-01851 in the name of Angela Ross (Economic Growth and Prosperity), leave out from "Scotland's" to end and insert “that economic growth alone does not guarantee improved living standards for all people or shared prosperity, and is of the view that it often comes with unintended consequences such as social and environmental harm; believes that Scottish Government decisions to increase public spending and set more progressive tax rates have been, and remain, necessary to achieve a more equal society and to protect public services and investment; recognises the need to build a sustainable, fair and ethical economy that prioritises the essential needs of all people instead of the greed of the wealthiest, and calls on the Scottish Government to present to Parliament detailed proposals to ensure that the wealth generated in Scotland's economy is fairly shared for the benefit of current and future generations.”

Rachael Hamilton moved S7M-01851.4—As an amendment to motion S7M-01851 in the name of Angela Ross (Economic Growth and Prosperity), leave out from “, and calls” to end and insert “; believes that the 2027-28 Budget must break the cycle of higher taxes, weaker growth and increasing pressure on the public finances, and calls on the Scottish Government to cut taxes on workers and businesses and curb unsustainable welfare spending to create the conditions for growth.”

Liam McArthur moved S7M-01851.1—As an amendment to motion S7M-01851 in the name of Angela Ross (Economic Growth and Prosperity), leave out from “believes” to end and insert “considers that the Scottish Government should focus on using its powers more effectively to support sustainable economic growth; believes that a closer economic relationship with the EU represents the single largest opportunity to increase Scotland and the UK’s economic growth and improve productivity; welcomes the reported progress made in negotiations between the UK Government and the EU to remove checks from food and agricultural exports, to link their emissions trading schemes and to agree a youth mobility scheme, and calls for greater ambition from the UK Government, including working towards a new customs union with the EU and rejoining the single market.”

The motion, as amended, was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 75, Against 23, Abstentions 16).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament recognises the importance of improving living standards, creating opportunities for young people, supporting fair work and higher wages,

and strengthening public services, to Scotland's economy; agrees that Scotland must make full use of its economic strengths, including its renewable energy resources, highly-skilled workforce, world-class universities and colleges and thriving business sectors; believes that Scotland's vast energy potential must deliver economic benefits directly to people who live in Scotland by bringing down bills; condemns the economic damage caused by Brexit, and agrees that rejoining the EU is the best way to deliver lasting benefits for Scotland's economy.

3. Face Coverings in Public Places: Helen McDade moved S7M-01844—That the Parliament notes the ongoing debate across Scotland regarding the wearing of full-face coverings, including the burqa and niqab, in public places; recognises that legislation in Scotland already provides police with powers to require the removal of face coverings in specified circumstances where there are reasonable grounds to believe that they are being used to conceal identity in connection with criminality or disorder; notes the Scottish Government's current position that existing police powers are sufficient; further notes that a number of European countries have introduced restrictions on face coverings in public places, and notes calls for the Scottish Government to set out its assessment of the potential benefits of introducing further restrictions on full-face coverings in public places, including consideration of public safety, individual liberty and community cohesion.

Minister for Victims and Community Safety (Kirsten Oswald) moved S7M-01844.2—As an amendment to motion S7M-01844 in the name of Helen McDade (Face Coverings in Public Places), leave out from first "notes" to end and insert "acknowledges that it is not for Parliament to legislate for what women choose to wear, and agrees that parliamentarians should lead by example in rejecting the language and actions of those who seek to divide Scotland's communities in person and online."

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 83, Against 24, Abstentions 8). As a result, amendments S7M-01844.3 and S7M-01844.1 were pre-empted.

Stephen Kerr moved S7M-01844.3—As an amendment to motion S7M-01844 in the name of Helen McDade (Face Coverings in Public Places), leave out from the first ", including" to end and insert "in public places; recognises that existing powers may be insufficient to prevent crime and serious public disorder where individuals deliberately conceal their identities, and calls on the Scottish Government to review these powers in consultation with Police Scotland and police representatives, and to consider proportionate additional powers to require the removal of face coverings where there are reasonable grounds."

Yi-pei Chou Turvey moved S7M-01844.1—As an amendment to motion S7M-01844 in the name of Helen McDade (Face Coverings in Public Places), leave out from first "notes" to end and insert "recognises that legislation in Scotland provides police with powers to require the removal of face coverings in specified circumstances where there are reasonable grounds to believe that they are being used to conceal identity in connection with criminality or disorder."

The motion, as amended, was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 92, Against 15, Abstentions 8).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

> That the Parliament acknowledges that it is not for Parliament to legislate for what women choose to wear, and agrees that parliamentarians should lead by example in rejecting the language and actions of those who seek to divide Scotland's communities in person and online.

4. Business Programme: Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (James Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S7M-01864—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 10 November 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: Winter Resilience

followed by Scottish Government Debate: The BBC and Public Service Broadcasting in Scotland

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.30 pm Decision Time

followed by Members’ Business

Wednesday 11 November 2026

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Social Justice and Housing; Economy, Tourism and Transport

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 12 November 2026

1.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

1.30 pm General Questions

2.00 pm First Minister's Questions (Party Leaders)

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Scottish Local Government Elections (Candidacy Rights of Commonwealth Citizens) Bill

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Remembering the Service of our Armed Forces Community

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.30 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Tuesday 17 November 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 18 November 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 Green Party Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.30 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 19 November 2026

1.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

1.30 pm General Questions

2.00 pm First Minister's Questions (Party Leaders)

followed by Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body Questions

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 9 November 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.

(c) that, for the purposes of Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body Questions on Thursday 19 November 2026, that Rule 13.9.3 be varied to replace the words "of up to 15 minutes" with "of up to 20 minutes".

The motion was agreed to.

5. Approval of SSI: Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S7M-01865—That the Parliament agrees that the Maximum Number of Judges (Scotland) Order 2026 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

6. Approval of SSI: Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S7M-01866—That the Parliament agrees that the Air Departure Tax (Administration) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2026 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

7. Approval of SSI: Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S7M-01867—That the Parliament agrees that the Air Departure Tax (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2026 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

8. Approval of SSI: Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S7M-01868—That the Parliament agrees that the Renewables Obligation (Scotland) Amendment (No. 2)

Order 2026 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

9. Office of the Clerk: Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S7M-01869—That the Parliament agrees that the Office of the Clerk be closed on Thursday 24 (am), Tuesday 29, Wednesday 30 and Thursday 31 December 2026.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

10. Committee Membership: Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S7M-01870—That the Parliament agrees that—

Kim Schmulian be appointed to replace Amanda Lindsay as a member of the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee;

Senga Beresford be appointed to replace Angela Ross as a member of the Education and Gaelic Committee;

Victor Currie be appointed to replace Senga Beresford as a member of the Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee;

Angela Ross be appointed to replace Kim Schmulian as a member of the Finance and Public Administration Committee;

Victor Currie be appointed to replace Julie MacDougall as a member of the Public Petitions Committee;

David Smith be appointed to replace Max Bannerman as a member of the Public Service Reform Committee; and

Julie MacDougall be appointed to replace Thomas Kerr as a member of the Social Justice, Housing and Local Government Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

11. Substitution on Committees: Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S7M-01871—That the Parliament agrees that—

Helen McDade be appointed to replace David Kirkwood as the Reform UK substitute on the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee;

Angela Ross be appointed to replace Kim Schmulian as the Reform UK substitute on the Economy, Tourism and Energy Committee;

Mark Simpson be appointed to replace Angela Ross as the Reform UK substitute on the Finance and Public Administration Committee;

Julie MacDougall be appointed as the Reform UK substitute on the Public Petitions Committee;

Max Bannerman be appointed to replace Helen McDade as the Reform UK substitute on the Public Service Reform Committee; and

David Smith be appointed to replace Julie MacDougall as the Reform UK substitute on the Social Justice, Housing and Local Government Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

12. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 2, 3 and 5 to 11 as noted above.

13. The Lobular Moon Shot Project, Raising Awareness of Lobular Breast Cancer and the Lack of Research: The Parliament debated S7M-00179 in the name of David Barratt—That the Parliament recognises the work of the Lobular Moon Shot Project in raising awareness of invasive lobular breast cancer; notes that this condition is the second most common type of breast cancer, accounting for around 15% of diagnoses, with an average of 22 women a day in the UK receiving a lobular diagnosis, yet it is often considered to have been historically under-researched and underfunded; understands that it presents and behaves differently from other forms of breast cancer, often not forming a distinct lump and therefore being more difficult to detect through routine screening; believes that there are currently no treatments specifically developed for the condition, despite its distinct biological characteristics; notes with concern that less than 1% of breast cancer research funding has historically been directed towards lobular research; recognises calls from the Lobular Moon Shot Project for dedicated investment in research into its basic biology, including proposals for £20 million of ring-fenced funding from the UK Government over five years; welcomes the involvement of researchers from Scottish institutions, alongside the Manchester Breast Centre and international partners; believes that improved understanding of lobular breast cancer could lead to earlier diagnosis, more targeted treatments and better long-term outcomes for women living with the condition in Cowdenbeath and across the country, while reducing pressures on the NHS, and notes calls urging the Scottish Government to support the aims of the Lobular Moon Shot Project and to press the UK Government to commit the funding required to ensure that women diagnosed with lobular breast cancer can benefit from equitable research, treatment and care.

The meeting closed at 6:49pm.

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 instrument was laid before the Parliament on 4 November 2026 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 (Modification) (Scotland) Regulations 2027 (SSI 2026/Draft)
laid under section 35(3)(a) of the Children (Care and Justice) (Scotland) Act 2024.

Legislative Consent Memorandum

The following memorandum was lodged on 4 November 2026—

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

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 4 November 2026 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Environmental Standards Scotland engine idling laws air quality investigation: Scottish Government improvement plan (SG/2026/281) laid under section 30(3)(a) of the UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Continuity) (Scotland) Act 2021

National Waiting Times Centre Board (Known as NHS Golden Jubilee) Annual Report and Consolidated Accounts for Year ended 31 March 2026 (SG/2026/269) laid
under section 22 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

NHS Orkney Annual Report and Accounts For Year Ended 31 March 2026 (SG/2026/265) laid
under section 22 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

NHS Shetland Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2026 (SG/2026/266) laid
under section 22 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

NHS Western Isles Annual Report and Accounts For The Year Ended 31st March 2026 (SG/2026/268) laid
under section 22 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Security Industry Authority Annual Report & Accounts 2025-26 (SG/2026/240) laid
under 17(3) of Schedule 1 to the Private Security Industry Act 2001

Tayside Health Board Annual Report and Accounts For Year Ended 31 March

2026 SG/2026/267 laid
under section 22 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 4 November 2026—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 16th Report, 2026 (Session 7): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 3 November 2026 (SP Paper 39)

Finance and Public Administration Committee, 4th Report, 2026 (Session 7): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Finance and Public Administration Committee on 28 October 2026 (SP Paper 41)

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