The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minutes of Proceedings

Parliamentary year 1, number 45, Session 7

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 12 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 Local Government Elections (Candidacy Rights of Commonwealth Citizens) Bill: Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn) moved S7M-01988—That the Parliament agrees to the general principles of the Scottish Local Government Elections (Candidacy Rights of Commonwealth Citizens) Bill.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 73, Against 38, Abstentions 1).

4. Remembering the Service of the Armed Forces Community: Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn) moved S7M-01993—That the Parliament pays tribute to all individuals across Scotland, the UK, the Commonwealth and Allied Nations who were harmed or killed in war; is grateful to those who served and sacrificed to build the relative peace and freedoms that people enjoy today; acknowledges the enduring importance of the Remembrance period to families and communities and the importance of maintaining awareness amongst younger generations as events become more distant; remembers all victims of wars, those that happened in the past as well as those happening now, and recognises Scotland's Veterans and Armed Forces community and the significant contribution that they continue to make to the nation.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

5. Motion without Notice: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved a motion without notice that, under Rule 11.2.4, Decision Time be brought forward to 5.26 pm.

The motion was agreed to.

6. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 3 and 4 as noted above.

7. Realising the Economic Potential of Marine Energy: The Parliament debated S7M-01592 in the name of Donald MacKinnon—That the Parliament recognises the significant economic opportunity that it considers Scotland's marine energy sector presents, particularly for the coastal and island communities of the Highlands and Islands; notes the findings of the University of Edinburgh report,*Future Economic Potential of Tidal Stream and Wave Energy in Scotland*, which estimates that marine energy could contribute more than £8 billion to Scotland's economy and support over 15,000 high-value jobs by 2050; further notes the report's conclusion that sustained technology innovation through public and private funding will be required if Scotland is to realise this opportunity, alongside the development of supply chains and supporting infrastructure; recognises that the Programme for Government places innovation at the heart of economic growth, the energy transition and public service reform, building on approaches that are already working; notes concerns about an absence of clear strategic leadership for the marine energy sector within the Scottish Government in recent years; further notes the withdrawal of funding from Wave Energy Scotland, whose technology development programmes have attracted international recognition and helped establish Scotland as a global leader in technology innovation; considers that the resulting loss of expertise, experience and institutional knowledge developed through Wave Energy Scotland could impede the development and commercialisation of Scotland's marine energy technologies, and result in missed opportunities to apply these capabilities in support of other offshore renewable energy sectors; notes the belief that the Scottish Government should provide a clear statement of policy intent for marine energy, and acknowledges the view that there is an urgent need to retain and build upon Wave Energy Scotland's established expertise and capability in delivering effective publicly funded innovation programmes to provide continuity and maximise the value of previous public investment.

The meeting closed at 6:12pm.

David McGill

Clerk of the Parliament

12 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 12 November 2026 and are not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Victims, Witnesses, and Justice Reform (Scotland) Act 2025 (Commencement No. 3) Regulations 2026 (SSI 2026/334 (C. 39))
laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010.

Children (Care and Justice) (Scotland) Act 2024 (Commencement No. 4) Regulations 2026 (SSI 2026/335 (C. 40))
laid under section 30 of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 12 November 2026 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Historic Environment Scotland Annual Report and Financial Statements 2025-26 (SG/2026/150) laid
under Section 14(3) of Schedule 1 of the Historic Environment Scotland Act 2014

ILF Scotland Annual Report and Financial Statements Year Ended 31 March 2026 (SG/2026/289) laid
under section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

National Records of Scotland Annual Report and Accounts 2025-2026 (SG/2026/173) laid
under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Police Investigations & Review Commissioner Annual Report & Accounts 2025/26 (SG/2026/249) laid under Section 43(5) of the Police Public Order and Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2006

Scottish Pubs Code Adjudicator Annual Report and Accounts 2025/2026 (SG/2026/194) laid
under Section 22 (5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000 and Part 4 of the Tied Pubs (Scotland) Act

The 2025/26 audit of Historic Environment Scotland (SG/2026/298) laid
under section 22 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 12 November 2026—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 17th Report, 2026 (Session 7): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 10 November 2026 (SP Paper 42)

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