The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minutes of Proceedings

Parliamentary year 1, number 46, Session 7

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 17 November 2026

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

The meeting opened at 2:00pm.

1. Time for Reflection: Dr David Strang CBE QPM, Prisoners Week Scotland, led Time for Reflection.

2. Revision to Business Programme: Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S7M-02079—That the Parliament agrees to the following revision to the programme of business for Tuesday 17 November 2026—

after

followed by First Minister's Questions (Backbench Members)

insert

followed by Ministerial Statement: NHS Grampian

The motion was agreed to.

3. General Questions: Questions were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Minister.

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

5. Ministerial Statement: The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Care (Angela Constance) made a statement and answered questions on NHS Grampian.

6. Energy Prices and the Cost of Living: Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice and Housing (Shirley-Anne Somerville) moved S7M-02053—That the Parliament notes that soaring energy bills, combined with severe cost of living pressures, are placing unprecedented pressures on households and businesses this winter; highlights that Ofgem's energy price cap is forecast to go beyond £2,000 from January 2027; regrets that the UK Labour administration has failed to cut energy bills by £300, as promised during the 2024 General Election; welcomes the support already provided by the Scottish Government on a package of measures, within its limited powers, to

reduce household bills; calls on the UK Government to go further than the temporary measures announced in the recent Budget and to implement the Scottish Government's proposals for a social tariff in the form of bill discounts targeted at those in greatest need, and believes that, if the UK Government won't act, it must devolve powers to the Scottish Parliament so that the necessary actions can be taken.

Mark Griffin moved S7M-02053.3—As an amendment to motion S7M-02053 in the name of Shirley-Anne Somerville (Energy Prices and the Cost of Living), leave out from "regrets" to end and insert "recognises that wider pressures on international energy markets, including the impact of conflicts in Ukraine and Iran, are continuing to place significant pressure on household energy bills; welcomes the practical action taken by the UK Labour Government in its Autumn Budget to create immediate breathing space for families with the rising cost of living and to help households with energy costs; notes that these measures have generated additional funding for devolved governments; believes that Scotland should use this to deliver further support to those who need it most; calls, therefore, on the Scottish Government to use the additional funds to extend the UK Government's £100 energy payment to all households in receipt of Council Tax Reduction and to increase the Winter Heating Payment to £100; further calls on the Scottish Government to maximise uptake of the Warm Home Discount, and notes that these measures combined could deliver up to £350 of extra assistance to the poorest households this winter."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 15, Against 92, Abstentions 8).

Duncan Massey moved S7M-02053.4—As an amendment to motion S7M-02053 in the name of Shirley-Anne Somerville (Energy Prices and the Cost of Living), leave out from "welcomes" to end and insert "notes that the Scottish Government has supported Net Zero and made calls for the UK Government to go even further, which Parliament regards as having increased the cost of living; further notes that Office of National Statistics' CPI and energy intensity data show that, even allowing for global factors, energy costs per household in the UK are, on average currently £1,700 higher than in the USA, based on their current energy costs; calls on the UK and Scottish governments to abandon Net Zero and to focus fully on reducing energy costs, with renewables deployed only when this can be done without subsidy, to deliver cheap, abundant and reliable energy."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 16, Against 101, Abstentions 0).

Holly Bruce moved S7M-02053.1—As an amendment to motion S7M-02053 in the name of Shirley-Anne Somerville (Energy Prices and the Cost of Living), insert at end "; recognises that programmes such as Warmer Homes Scotland and Area Based Schemes can help reduce bills, upgrade homes and provide practical support to households experiencing, or at risk of, fuel poverty; believes that to deliver affordable energy in the long term, the UK Government must decouple the price of electricity from that of gas and Scotland must redouble its efforts to invest in renewables; recognises that powers to support the transition to clean heating and to insulate homes rest with the Scottish Parliament, and

therefore calls on the Scottish Government to ensure that the forthcoming Heat in Buildings Bill includes strong measures in both of these areas to help create warm homes for all."

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 90, Against 27, Abstentions 0).

Liam Kerr moved S7M-02053.5—As an amendment to motion S7M-02053 in the name of Shirley-Anne Somerville (Energy Prices and the Cost of Living), leave out from "welcomes" to end and insert "believes that lasting reductions in energy bills require greater domestic energy production, stronger energy security and lower policy costs; calls on the UK Government to support continued North Sea oil and gas production and to reduce green and energy levies that add to household and business bills, and calls on the Scottish Government to use its existing powers to reduce devolved costs and regulatory burdens rather than pursue interventions, such as food price controls, that risk increasing costs further."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 27, Against 90, Abstentions 0).

Morven-May MacCallum moved S7M-02053.2—As an amendment to motion S7M-02053 in the name of Shirley-Anne Somerville (Energy Prices and the Cost of Living), leave out from ", and believes that" to end and insert "; believes that rural and island communities, where some of the highest levels of fuel poverty in Scotland can be found, are facing the prospect of even higher bills for the heating oil on which many households rely, and calls therefore on the UK Government to introduce a three-month zero rate of VAT on domestic heating oil and to develop a price cap to shield those communities from sudden increases in the price of heating oil."

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 91, Against 25, Abstentions 0).

The motion, as amended, was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 75, Against 41, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament notes that soaring energy bills, combined with severe cost of living pressures, are placing unprecedented pressures on households and businesses this winter; highlights that Ofgem's energy price cap is forecast to go beyond £2,000 from January 2027; regrets that the UK Labour administration has failed to cut energy bills by £300, as promised during the 2024 General Election; welcomes the support already provided by the Scottish Government on a package of measures, within its limited powers, to reduce household bills; calls on the UK Government to go further than the temporary measures announced in the recent Budget and to implement the Scottish Government's proposals for a social tariff in the form of bill discounts targeted at those in greatest need; believes that rural and island communities, where some of the highest levels of fuel poverty in Scotland can be found, are facing the prospect of even higher bills for the heating oil on which many households rely, and calls therefore on the UK Government to introduce a three-month zero rate of VAT on domestic heating oil and to develop a price cap to shield those

communities from sudden increases in the price of heating oil.

7. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on item 6 as noted above.

8. Congratulating Inverclyde Tourist Group on its 25th Anniversary: The Parliament debated S7M-00982 in the name of Stuart McMillan—That the Parliament congratulates Inverclyde Tourist Group (ITG) on reaching its 25th anniversary; recognises the outstanding contribution that its volunteers have made in welcoming visitors to Inverclyde and promoting the area's attractions, heritage and hospitality; notes that ITG members were recently honoured at a special celebration aboard the *Majestic Princess* cruise ship, hosted by Princess Cruises and Global Ports, to mark this significant milestone; acknowledges that the group has welcomed hundreds of thousands of cruise passengers to Greenock over the past quarter century and has played a major role in helping establish Greenock as a leading cruise destination; commends the dedication and commitment of current and former volunteers, including the organisation's founders, whose efforts have helped showcase Inverclyde to visitors from around the world; recognises the positive contribution that tourism makes to local communities, including across the Inverclyde constituency; notes that ITG's work was previously recognised through the award of The Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service, and wishes everyone associated with ITG continued success for the future and for the next 25 years of service.

The meeting closed at 6:14pm.

David McGill

Clerk of the Parliament

17 November 2026

Appendix

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

Subordinate Legislation

Subject to negative procedure

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 13 November 2026 and is subject to the negative procedure—

Scotland Act 1998 (Agency Arrangements) (Specification) (Digital Waste Tracking) Order 2026 (SI 2026/1188)
Laid under section 115 and schedule 7 of the Scotland Act 1998.

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 16 November 2026 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Cairngorms National Park Authority Annual Report and Accounts 2025/26 (SG/2026/221) laid under section 26(5) of the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 and section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Crofting Commission Annual Report & Accounts 2025/26 (SG/2026/53) laid under Section 2B and Schedule 1, paragraph 19 of the Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993

Scottish Fiscal Commission Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2026 (SFC/2026/6) laid under section 5(3) of the Scottish Fiscal Commission Act 2016

Scottish Futures Trust Investments Limited Annual Report And Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 March 2026 (SG/2026/297) laid under section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Scottish Futures Trust Limited Annual Report and Accounts For the year ended 31 March 2026 (SG/2026/296) laid under section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 17 November 2026 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Housing (Scotland) Act 2025 - Rural and Island Communities Impact Assessment (SG/2026/292) laid under section 81(2)(a) of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2025

Registers of Scotland Annual Report and Accounts 2025-26 (SG/2026/285) laid under section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 13 November 2026—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 18th Report, 2026 (Session 7):

Representation of the People Bill (UK Parliament legislation) - delegated powers exercisable within devolved competence, with reference to LCM-S7-7b (SP Paper 43).

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