The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minutes of Proceedings

Parliamentary year 1, number 47, Session 7

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 18 November 2026

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

The meeting opened at 2:00pm.

1. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Deputy First Minister Responsibilities, Finance and Local Government, Parliamentary Business and Veterans, and then on Public Service Reform, Europe, External Affairs and Energy, were answered by the Deputy First Minister, a Cabinet Secretary and Ministers.

2. Rosebank and Upholding the Paris Climate Agreement: Mark Ruskell moved S7M-02068—That the Parliament agrees that new oil and gas exploration licences and the proposed Rosebank oil and gas field are incompatible with the UK's commitments under the Paris Climate Agreement to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees, and opposes the development of the Rosebank oil and gas field.

> Minister for Europe, External Affairs and Energy (Stephen Gethins) moved S7M-02068.4—As an amendment to motion S7M-02068 in the name of Mark Ruskell (Rosebank and Upholding the Paris Climate Agreement), leave out from "and the proposed" to end and insert "must be compatible with climate legislation."
>
> After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 63, Against 55, Abstentions 0). As a result, amendment S7M-02068.1 was pre-empted.
>
> Paul Sweeney moved S7M-02068.2—As an amendment to motion S7M-02068 in the name of Mark Ruskell (Rosebank and Upholding the Paris Climate Agreement), leave out from "agrees" to end and insert "reaffirms its commitment to meeting the UK's obligations under the Paris Climate Agreement and achieving net zero emissions; considers that oil and gas production and durable hydrocarbon products will remain part of Scotland's economy for years to come and are vital to energy security and the economic security of working families and communities; notes that the decision on whether to grant consent for the Rosebank development will be taken at ministerial level by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero through a quasi-judicial process, with final consenting decisions resting with the North Sea Transition Authority; recognises the need for a wider programme of reindustrialisation that supports jobs, domestic supply chains and investment in communities across Scotland,

and believes that the transition to a lower-carbon economy must be a just transition that protects workers and communities while creating new industrial opportunities in the energy industries of the future."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 25, Against 93, Abstentions 0).

Liam Kerr moved S7M-02068.1—As an amendment to motion S7M-02068 in the name of Mark Ruskell (Rosebank and Upholding the Paris Climate Agreement), leave out from “are incompatible” to end and insert "would provide substantial economic benefits for Scotland and the North East and would significantly bolster Scotland's energy security; opposes recently announced proposals to ban any new exploration for oil and gas in the North Sea, and calls for the energy profits levy to be scrapped.”

The motion, as amended, was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 78, Against 40, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament agrees that new oil and gas exploration licences must be compatible with climate legislation.

3. Local Government Reform: Ross Greer moved S7M-02069—That the Parliament agrees that local government reorganisation must include greater fiscal empowerment of councils, including the replacement of the current outdated council tax system with a fairer and more progressive model, and instructs the Scottish Government to lay out the process by which it aims to achieve this in its forthcoming reorganisation proposals.

Minister for Public Finance (Hannah Mary Goodlad) moved S7M-02069.3—As an amendment to motion S7M-02069 in the name of Ross Greer (Local Government Reform), insert at end “agrees that local government reform is necessary and should be concluded during the current parliamentary session; notes the Prime Minister’s commitment to support the devolution of powers from the UK government to regions in Scotland; welcomes the Prime Minister’s commitment not to bypass the Scottish Parliament in the devolution of these further powers; recognises that greater devolution of responsibilities to regions will require regional structures to be delivered; supports the view that, alongside new regional structures, new community level structures are also required to give a greater voice to local communities, and believes there are opportunities to place responsibilities that currently rest with non-departmental public bodies within the powers of new regional structures for local government.”

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 69, Against 49, Abstentions 0).

Joe Fagan moved S7M-02069.1—As an amendment to motion S7M-02069 in the name of Ross Greer (Local Government Reform), insert at end “; notes that the Parliament has voted for cross-party talks on the future of the council tax; further notes the content of the European Charter of Local Self-Government, which was incorporated into law in October 2026, and the Verity House Agreement, which states that the Scottish Government and local authorities will work together to ‘deliver sustainable person-centred public services recognising

the fiscal challenges, ageing demography and opportunities to innovate', and believes that, even if no consensus can be reached on local government reorganisation, the Scottish Government should nonetheless work to replace the council tax and progress regional devolution."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 39, Against 80, Abstentions 0).

Murdo Fraser moved S7M-02069.2—As an amendment to motion S7M-02069 in the name of Ross Greer (Local Government Reform), leave out from "agrees" to end and insert "notes the widespread opposition to the Scottish Government's plans for local government reform and the rushed timetable for consultation, which demonstrates contempt for stakeholders; believes that imposing a new regional tier would not provide efficiencies or benefit local communities; further believes that there is an opportunity for meaningful reform, which needs to be progressed through consensus, and considers that any such reform must be based on an understanding of the role and function of local government and its autonomy from the Scottish Government, and must deliver a fair, secure and stable funding settlement for councils across Scotland, with proper recognition of the additional costs of delivering services in rural communities."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 10, Against 99, Abstentions 9).

The motion, as amended, was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 69, Against 50, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament agrees that local government reorganisation must include greater fiscal empowerment of councils, including the replacement of the current outdated council tax system with a fairer and more progressive model; instructs the Scottish Government to lay out the process by which it aims to achieve this in its forthcoming reorganisation proposals; agrees that local government reform is necessary and should be concluded during the current parliamentary session; notes the Prime Minister's commitment to support the devolution of powers from the UK government to regions in Scotland; welcomes the Prime Minister's commitment not to bypass the Scottish Parliament in the devolution of these further powers; recognises that greater devolution of responsibilities to regions will require regional structures to be delivered; supports the view that, alongside new regional structures, new community level structures are also required to give a greater voice to local communities, and believes there are opportunities to place responsibilities that currently rest with non-departmental public bodies within the powers of new regional structures for local government.

4. Business Programme: Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S7M-02080—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 24 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: NHS Simplification

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Trade, Investment and International Engagement: Driving Economic Growth

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.30 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 25 November 2026

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Justice; Health and Care

followed by Scottish Government Debate: 16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women and Girls for an Equally Safe Scotland

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.30 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 26 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 Government Debate: Marking World AIDS Day

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Celebrating St Andrew's Day

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Tuesday 1 December 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 2 December 2026

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Climate Action and Rural Affairs; Education, Culture and Gaelic

followed by Committee Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.30 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 3 December 2026

1.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

1.30 pm General Questions

2.00 pm First Minister's Questions (Party Leaders)

followed by Ministerial Statement: Scottish Budget 2027-28

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 23 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.

The motion was agreed to.

5. Substitution on Committees: Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S7M-02081—That the Parliament agrees that Stephen Kerr be appointed to replace Rachael Hamilton as the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party substitute on the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

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

7. Developing a National Scottish Fontan Service and Transplant Pathway: The Parliament debated S7M-01572 in the name of Fulton MacGregor—That the Parliament recognises the life-saving role of the Fontan procedure for children born with complex congenital heart disease and a single-ventricle circulation; notes that the Fontan operation is a form of open-heart surgery, which enables oxygen-poor blood returning from the lower body to bypass the heart and flow directly to the blood vessels of the lungs, separating oxygen-poor and oxygen-rich blood and significantly improving oxygen levels throughout the body; recognises that, following Fontan surgery, many children experience improved oxygenation, energy and quality of life, allowing them to survive into adulthood; further recognises, however, that the Fontan circulation is a form of palliation rather than a cure and that people living with it require lifelong specialist surveillance and multidisciplinary care; notes what it sees as the growing current and foreseeable clinical needs of people in Coatbridge and Chryston and across Scotland who are living with Fontan circulation and complex congenital heart disease; understands that international prevalence data suggest that between 300 and 400 individuals in Scotland currently live with it, with adult survival now up to 90%, resulting in a growing adult population at increasing risk of Fontan-associated complications and multi-organ disease; notes that complications can include progressive heart failure, arrhythmias, protein-losing enteropathy, plastic bronchitis, kidney dysfunction and liver disease, with up to 50% of adult Fontan patients developing clinically significant liver disease; understands that approximately 20 to 30% might ultimately require multi-organ transplantation such as heart, liver and/or lung transplants; believes that the increasing number of adults living with Fontan circulation represents a significant and evolving clinical need for NHS Scotland; notes with concern that Scotland currently lacks a dedicated national pathway for failing Fontan circulation and complex congenital heart disease requiring transplantation, resulting in some patients being referred outwith the country, most commonly to specialist centres in England; recognises the physical, emotional, financial and logistical burden that this can place on patients and families, including prolonged separation, fragmented continuity of care and ongoing cross-border follow-up requirements; notes what it sees as the absence of a formalised Scottish

shared care model for post-transplant surveillance and long-term management; acknowledges Scotland's existing strengths, including the Scottish Adult Congenital Cardiac Service (SACCS), established heart transplant infrastructure at the Golden Jubilee National Hospital, experienced cardiothoracic surgical programmes and national service planning capability; believes that these existing strengths provide a strong foundation for developing a coordinated Scottish Fontan service; further believes that there is a strategic opportunity to develop a national Scottish Fontan hub to provide structured lifelong surveillance, early identification of Fontan-associated complications, multidisciplinary assessment, risk stratification, transplant planning and coordination, and post-transplant shared care; considers that such a model could improve patient safety, equity of access, continuity of care and clinical outcomes, while supporting the principle of providing specialist care as close to home as clinically appropriate; notes the view that, in the context of any future changes to the organisation or provision of specialist health services in Scotland, particular consideration should be given to the arrangements required to ensure continued access to specialist transplant centres in England for patients from Scotland, where clinically appropriate, and notes the view that clear and sustainable cross-border pathways should form an important part of the long-term planning for Fontan and complex congenital heart disease services, and acknowledges the calls on the Scottish Government to engage with NHS Scotland, SACCS leadership, transplant centres, relevant clinical specialists and patients and families affected by Fontan circulation to undertake a feasibility assessment for the development of a national Fontan hub and structured complex congenital heart disease transplant pathway, including consideration of workforce planning, specialist training, infrastructure, cross-border arrangements, research and data collection, and the long-term sustainability of the service.

The meeting closed at 6:30pm.

David McGill

Clerk of the Parliament

18 November 2026

Appendix

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

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 18 November 2026 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Independent National Whistleblowing Officer: Compendium of Case Reports for November 2026 (INWO/2026/07) laid under Sections 15(1) and 15(1A) of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002

Scottish Public Services Ombudsman: Compendium of Case Reports for November
2026 (SPSO/2026/09) laid under Sections 15(1) and 15(1A) of the Scottish Public Services
Ombudsman Act 2002

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 18 November 2026—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 20th Report, 2026 (Session 7): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 17 November 2026 (SP Paper 44)

Subordinate legislation considered by the Economy, Tourism and Energy Committee on 10 November 2026 (SP Paper 47)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 19th Report, 2026 (Session 7): Health Bill (UK Parliament legislation) - delegated powers exercisable within devolved competence, with reference to LCM-S7-6a.

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