



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 1, No. 33, Session 7

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 1 October 2026

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

The meeting opened at 1.30 pm.

1. General Questions: Questions were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.

2. First Minister's Questions: Questions were answered by the First Minister (John Swinney).

3. Scotland's Priorities for the UK Budget : The Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government (Jenny Gilruth) moved S7M-01395—That the Parliament welcomes the new Prime Minister's approach to further devolution for Scotland; calls for commensurate funding to support the transfer of further powers and for the UK Government to end the era of austerity by increasing the Scottish Government's budget in real terms; demands that the UK Government take action to address the cost of living crisis, including immediate action on energy and fuel bills; suggests that the UK Government should improve wealth taxation to support the public finances and devolve a greater range of powers, including fiscal powers, to Scotland, to aid investment and growth.

Malcolm Offord moved amendment S7M-01395.2—

As an amendment to S7M-01395 in the name of Jenny Gilruth (Scotland's Priorities for the UK Budget), leave out from "for Scotland" to end, and insert "across the UK as a whole; believes however that Scotland already has the most generous devolution settlement and that the Scottish Government must maximise the powers that it already has before asking for more; further believes

that, despite extensive devolution already and total state spending being 26% higher per capita than England, many Scottish public services have worse outcomes than in England; calls on the Scottish Government to take action to address the cost of living crisis, on the basis that the most impactful immediate action it could take would be to reduce energy and fuel bills, and notes that Parliament already has the power to assist with this by ending the ban on nuclear energy development and opposition to new oil and gas."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 27, Against 91, Abstentions 0).

Daniel Johnson moved amendment S7M-01395.3—

As an amendment to S7M-01395 in the name of Jenny Gilruth (Scotland's Priorities for the UK Budget), leave out from "commensurate" to end and insert "a new approach to devolution within Scotland, transferring power and resources from the Scottish Parliament to Scotland's regions and local communities to support stronger regional economies and better local decision-making; notes the experience of regional devolution in places such as Greater Manchester and the role that greater local control has played in supporting regional economic development; believes that skills policy and funding should form a core part of regional devolution in Scotland, giving councils, colleges, employers and other local partners greater power to respond to the needs of their regional economies; calls on the Scottish Government to provide greater clarity regarding what its public service reform agenda would mean in practice for public services, the public sector workforce and communities across Scotland; further calls on the Scottish Government to publish an updated Medium-Term financial strategy ahead of its Budget, setting out the outlook for spending, taxation, reform and the sustainability of public finances over the medium term, in order for Parliament to have a clear and comprehensive picture to be able to scrutinise the Budget and make decisions about Scotland's priorities."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 39, Against 79, Abstentions 0).

Ross Greer moved amendment S7M-01395.4—

As an amendment to motion S7M-01395 in the name of Jenny Gilruth (Scotland's Priorities for the UK Budget), leave out from "suggests" to end and insert "believes that the UK Government must implement improved wealth taxation to support the public finances, and devolve a greater range of powers, including fiscal powers, to Scotland, to aid investment and growth; believes that it is the duty of governments to protect the most vulnerable in society; is concerned by the Chancellor of the Exchequer's recent comments regarding social security spending; calls on the Prime Minister to rule out cuts to support for disabled people and people living in poverty, and further believes that any UK Government decision to increase defence spending must not come at the expense of Scotland's public finances in the form of cuts to the block grant."

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

Craig Hoy moved amendment S7M-01395.5—

As an amendment to motion S7M-01395 in the name of Jenny Gilruth (Scotland's Priorities for the UK Budget), leave out from "welcomes" to end and insert "believes that the UK Budget should prioritise economic growth by avoiding further tax rises, keeping fuel costs down and supporting investment in Scotland; calls on the Scottish Government to control unsustainable welfare spending and deliver meaningful public service reform, and calls on both governments to reduce the burden on workers and businesses, and to support economic growth."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 26, Against 91, Abstentions 0).

Liam McArthur moved amendment S7M-01395.1—

As an amendment to motion S7M-01395 in the name of Jenny Gilruth (Scotland's Priorities for the UK Budget), leave out from "welcomes" to end and insert "believes that the focus of the UK Budget should be economic growth; further believes that the most impactful measure that the UK Government can take to improve economic growth is to reverse the economic damage of Brexit by negotiating a new growth and defence partnership with the EU, including joining the single market and a new customs union, and calls on the UK Government to take measures to support people with the cost of living, including cutting fuel duty by 10p."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 9, Against 109, Abstentions 0).

The motion, as amended, was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 70, Against 49, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament welcomes the new Prime Minister's approach to further devolution for Scotland; calls for commensurate funding to support the transfer of further powers and for the UK Government to end the era of austerity by increasing the Scottish Government's budget in real terms; demands that the UK Government take action to address the cost of living crisis, including immediate action on energy and fuel bills; believes that the UK Government must implement improved wealth taxation to support the public finances, and devolve a greater range of powers, including fiscal powers, to Scotland, to aid investment and growth; believes that it is the duty of governments to protect the most vulnerable in society; is concerned by the Chancellor of the Exchequer's recent comments regarding social security spending; calls on the Prime Minister to rule out cuts to support for disabled people and people living in poverty, and further believes that any UK Government decision

to increase defence spending must not come at the expense of Scotland's public finances in the form of cuts to the block grant.

4. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on item 3 as noted above.

5. Calling for a Regional Air Strategy for the Highlands and Islands: The Parliament debated S7M-01191 in the name of Liam McArthur—That the Parliament recognises that, for many island, coastal and rural communities, including those in Orkney, short-haul flights that connect them with mainland Scotland and the rest of the UK are a lifeline service, providing vital transport links for NHS patients, local businesses and the wider community; notes the deep concern of communities regarding the recent decision by Loganair to reduce services on routes from Inverness that connect the Northern and Western Isles with mainland Scotland, and the wider concern that this reflects an ongoing pattern of consolidation by the operator, which has cited the financial unsustainability of certain routes; recognises that reductions in flight availability and increasing fares can adversely affect the resilience and economies of island, coastal and rural communities; understands that the Scottish Government has already committed funding to restore air services from Inverness to island communities from October; notes the view that a long-term strategy is required to support a resilient, sustainable and accessible air transport network and that the development of such a strategy must be led by Scottish Ministers in collaboration with relevant stakeholders and informed by the needs and perspectives of island and coastal communities, and welcomes recent steps by the Scottish Government to take this work forward, while noting the call for this work to be done as a matter of urgency.

6. Motion without Notice: Liam McArthur 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 6.14 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
1 October 2026

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 30 September 2026—

Economy, Tourism and Energy Committee, 1st Report, 2026 (Session 7):
Subordinate legislation considered by the Economy, Tourism and Energy
Committee on 22 September 2026 (SP Paper 12)

The following report was published on 1 October 2026—

Transport Committee, 1st Report, 2026 (Session 7): Report on the Legislative
Consent Memorandum and supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum
for the Civil Aviation (Consumer Protection and Regulatory Reform) Bill (SP
Paper 15)

Subordinate Legislation

Negative Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 1 October 2026 and
are subject to the negative procedure—

Police Service of Scotland (Conduct) Amendment Regulations 2026 (SSI 2026/276)
laid under section 125(4) of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012

Police Service of Scotland (Senior Officers) (Conduct) Amendment Regulations 2026
(SSI 2026/277)
laid under section 125(4) of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012

Laid Only Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 1 October 2026 and
are not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Social Security (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 2025 (Commencement No. 3)
Regulations 2026 (SSI 2026/274 (C. 29))
laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform
(Scotland) Act 2010

Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2026 (Commencement No. 2) Regulations 2026
(SSI 2026/275 (C. 30))
laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform
(Scotland) Act 2010

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