



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 1, No. 35, Session 7

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 7 October 2026

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

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. Ministerial Statement: The Minister for Mental Wellbeing, Public Health, Sport, Alcohol and Drugs (Maree Todd) made a statement and answered questions on Improving Outcomes for Neurodivergent People, Autistic People and People with Learning Disabilities.

3. Supporting Scotland's Fishing Industry: The Minister for Agriculture, Marine and the Islands (Jim Fairlie) moved S7M-01460—That the Parliament recognises the vital importance of Scotland's fishing industry in sustaining jobs and livelihoods in island and coastal communities and across the wider economy; acknowledges the international reputation of Scottish seafood and the value that Scottish provenance brings to the sector in markets both at home and abroad; welcomes the Scottish Government's commitment to supporting a profitable, innovative and sustainable fishing industry; believes that this requires ongoing engagement across the sector, including with its associated supply chain, environmental organisations and fishing communities; notes the continued support provided to the sector through the Marine Fund Scotland, and that effective quota management and licensing arrangements can provide stability and support investment; recognises the range of challenges facing the sector, including the UK Government's damaging decision to unfairly allocate only £28 million, or 7.78% of the £360 million Fishing and Coastal Growth Fund to Scotland,

despite Scotland's fishing sector accounting for more than 60% of the UK's fishing capacity; agrees with industry stakeholders that the UK Government must reverse this decision, and supports the Scottish Government's approach to the forthcoming international negotiations on fishing opportunities for 2027, where it will seek to balance the sustainable management of fish stocks with the long-term prosperity of Scotland's fishing communities.

Donald MacKinnon moved amendment S7M-01460.2—

As an amendment to motion S7M-01460 in the name of Jim Fairlie (Supporting Scotland's Fishing Industry), leave out from "welcomes" and insert "considers that the voices of fishers, processors and coastal communities must be central to decisions affecting the sector; believes that the future of fishing depends on thriving places, with the infrastructure, skills, housing and opportunities needed to retain young people and support industry growth; recognises the growing concern among fishing, aquaculture, ports, renewable energy and conservation interests regarding the cumulative pressures on Scotland's marine space; calls on the Scottish Government to provide certainty for all users of the sea on how competing demands for marine space will be managed and how any spatial squeeze will be addressed, and further calls on the Scottish Government to bring forward, as a matter of urgency, its long-delayed Marine Plan 2 to provide a clear, integrated and strategic framework for the sustainable management of Scotland's seas."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 32, Against 71, Abstentions 13).

Jamie Langan moved amendment S7M-01460.1—

As an amendment to motion S7M-01460 in the name of Jim Fairlie (Supporting Scotland's Fishing Industry), insert at end "and calls on the Scottish Government to provide clarity around its plans for Marine Protected Areas and broader management of marine areas, and encourages the Scottish Government to look at the Norwegian Marine Resources Act as a model for recognising in law the socio-economic value of the fishing industry."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 26, Against 89, Abstentions 0).

Ariane Burgess moved amendment S7M-01460.5—

As an amendment to motion S7M-01460 in the name of Jim Fairlie (Supporting Scotland's Fishing Industry), insert at end "welcomes the findings of Environment Standards Scotland's Protecting Scotland's Seafloor report, which calls on Scottish Ministers to take actions to meet their legal obligations to the marine environment, and believes that fully implementing the National Marine Plan is crucial to sustaining Scotland's fishers and coastal communities for the long-term."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 21, Against 78, Abstentions 15).

James Adams moved amendment S7M-01460.3—

As an amendment to motion S7M-01460 in the name of Jim Fairlie (Supporting Scotland's Fishing Industry), insert at end "and backs the principle that fishermen should be protected from, or compensated for, any financial loss caused by the expansion of offshore wind farms into their long-established fishing grounds."

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 102, Against 15, Abstentions 0).

Andrew Baxter moved amendment S7M-01460.4—

As an amendment to motion S7M-01460 in the name of Jim Fairlie (Supporting Scotland's Fishing Industry), insert at end "; believes that there is a spatial squeeze, due to an increasing demand in marine space and that steps must be taken to address the impacts the fishing sector is facing due to this demand, including striking a new settlement on space-based planning for Scotland's seas, which respects local knowledge and ensures the right activity happens in the right place as well as a comprehensive scheme of compensation for fisherman who are displaced; notes long held concerns about the level of Scottish Government investment into its Marine Directorate and whether it is fit for purpose; calls therefore on the Scottish Government to conduct a review of the Directorate and to examine whether it should be replaced with a decentralised system, which manages waters as locally as possible, and further calls on the Scottish Government to bring forward a scheme on creel limits."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 22, Against 79, Abstentions 16).

The motion, as amended, was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 102, Against 15, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament recognises the vital importance of Scotland's fishing industry in sustaining jobs and livelihoods in island and coastal communities and across the wider economy; acknowledges the international reputation of Scottish seafood and the value that Scottish provenance brings to the sector in markets both at home and abroad; welcomes the Scottish Government's commitment to supporting a profitable, innovative and sustainable fishing industry; believes that this requires ongoing engagement across the sector, including with its associated supply chain, environmental organisations and fishing communities; notes the continued support provided to the sector through the Marine Fund Scotland, and that effective quota management and licensing arrangements can provide stability and support investment; recognises the range of challenges facing the sector, including the UK Government's damaging decision to unfairly allocate only £28 million, or 7.78% of the £360 million Fishing and Coastal Growth Fund to Scotland, despite Scotland's fishing

sector accounting for more than 60% of the UK's fishing capacity; agrees with industry stakeholders that the UK Government must reverse this decision; supports the Scottish Government's approach to the forthcoming international negotiations on fishing opportunities for 2027, where it will seek to balance the sustainable management of fish stocks with the long-term prosperity of Scotland's fishing communities; and backs the principle that fishermen should be protected from, or compensated for, any financial loss caused by the expansion of offshore wind farms into their long-established fishing grounds.

4. Scottish Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund : Stephen Kerr, on behalf of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body, moved S7M-01492—That the Parliament notes that Gordon MacDonald, a Fund Trustee of the Scottish Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund appointed as a participating member, has ceased to be a participating member and has become a scheme pensioner within the meaning of Rule 12(1)(a) of Schedule 1 to the Scottish Parliamentary Pensions Act 2009; further notes that notification of this change of circumstances has been provided in accordance with Rule 12(2)(a), and, in accordance with Rule 12(2)(b), resolves that Gordon MacDonald shall continue to hold office as a Fund Trustee notwithstanding the change of status from participating member to scheme pensioner.

The motion was agreed (DT).

5. Civil Aviation (Consumer Protection and Regulatory Reform) Bill - UK Legislation: The Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Tourism and Transport (Stephen Flynn) moved S7M-01497—That the Parliament, noting that the Civil Aviation (Consumer Protection and Regulatory Reform) Bill, introduced in the House of Lords on 14 May 2026, makes provision that falls within the legislative competence of the Parliament, agrees to give consent to such provision as is made by clause 7.

The motion was agreed (DT).

6. Cyber Security and Resilience (Network and Information Systems) Bill - UK Legislation: The Cabinet Secretary for Justice (Neil Gray) moved S7M-01498—That the Parliament, noting that the Cyber Security and Resilience (Network and Information Systems) Bill, introduced in the House of Commons on 12 November 2025, so far as these matters fall within the competence of the Scottish Parliament, or alter the executive competence of the Scottish Ministers, agrees to give consent to such provision as is made by clauses 12, 15, 17-23, 25-35, 38, 40, 41, 45-52, 56, Schedule 1 and Schedule 2.

The motion was agreed (DT).

7. Armed Forces Bill - UK Legislation: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn) moved S7M-01499—That the Parliament, noting that the Armed Forces Bill, introduced in the House of Commons on 15 January 2026 (reintroduced on 14 May 2026), makes provision that falls within the legislative competence of the Parliament, agrees to give consent to such provision as is made by clause 8 (4) and clause 8 (5).

The motion was agreed (DT).

8. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S7M-01505—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 27 October 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: Keeping The Promise: Progress and Delivery to 2030

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Scotland's Commitment to International Climate Justice

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.30 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 28 October 2026

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Justice; Health and Care

followed by Scottish Liberal Democrats Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.30 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 29 October 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: Strengthening Scotland's Public Health Approach to Preventing Alcohol and Drug Deaths

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Tuesday 3 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 4 November 2026

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

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

followed by Reform UK Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.30 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 5 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 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 26 October 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.

9. Stage 1 Timetable: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S7M-01506—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Scottish Local Government Elections (Candidacy Rights of Commonwealth Citizens) Bill at stage 1 be completed by 13 November 2026.

The motion was agreed (DT).

10. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 9 as noted above.

11. Baby Loss Awareness Week 2026: The Parliament debated S7M-00815 in the name of Patricia Gibson—That the Parliament supports Baby Loss Awareness Week, which takes place from 9 to 15 October 2026 and has the theme, *Together, we care*, focusing on nurturing mental and physical wellbeing and supporting one another; recognises that the week provides a safe and supportive opportunity for those affected by pregnancy and baby loss to share their experiences and to feel that they are not alone; recognises the devastating impact that baby loss can have on parents and the wider family; notes official statistics showing that there were 318 baby deaths including 159 stillbirths in Scotland and 4,477 baby deaths including 2,552 stillbirths across the UK in 2024; further notes research by the charity *Tommy's* indicating that half of adults in the UK have been affected directly, or through someone they know, by pregnancy or baby loss; acknowledges the significance of the global #WaveOfLight on 15 October, during which families around the world light a candle at 7PM local time in remembrance of babies who have died; pays tribute to the charities and organisations that support bereaved parents and families; commends the work of pregnancy and baby loss charities across Scotland and the UK, including Ayrshire Baby Loss Support, a non-profit organisation that supports anyone affected by baby loss and is a member of the Baby Loss Awareness Alliance, a group of more than 80 charities and organisations from across the UK that collaborate during Baby Loss Awareness Week to raise awareness of pregnancy and baby loss and to improve support for those affected, and recognises the valuable contribution that such organisations make in raising awareness and helping families through the painful experience of pregnancy and baby loss.

12. Motion without Notice: Patricia Gibson 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 6.58 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
7 October 2026

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

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 7 October 2026—

Rural Affairs Committee, 1st Report, 2026 (Session 7): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Rural Affairs Committee on 23 September 2026 (SP Paper 19)

Education and Gaelic Committee, 1st Report, 2026 (Session 7): The Provision of Early Learning and Childcare (Specified Children) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2026 [draft] (SP Paper 20)

Economy, Tourism and Energy Committee, 4th Report, 2026 (Session 7): Subordinate legislation considered by the Economy, Tourism and Energy Committee on 22 September 2026 (SP Paper 21)

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 7 October 2026 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Bankruptcy and Attachment (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2026 [draft]
laid under section 225(4) of the Bankruptcy (Scotland) Act 2016

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