The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minutes of Proceedings

Parliamentary year 1, number 38, Session 7

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 28 October 2026

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

The meeting opened at 2:00pm.

1. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Justice, and then on Health and Care, were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.

2. Learning Disabilities, Autism and Neurodivergence (LDAN) Bill: Adam Harley moved S7M-01739—That the Parliament calls on the Scottish Government to introduce a Learning Disabilities, Autism and Neurodivergence (LDAN) Bill to the Parliament.

> Minister for Mental Wellbeing, Public Health, Sport, Alcohol and Drugs (Maree Todd) moved S7M-01739.2—As an amendment to motion S7M-01739 in the name of Adam Harley (Learning Disabilities, Autism and Neurodivergence (LDAN) Bill), leave out from “introduce” and insert “significantly improve the support available for people who are neurodivergent, people who have a learning disability and people who are autistic; agrees that support across the country is too varied and inconsistent and recognises that there must be a direct focus on reducing waiting lists for neurodivergence assessments, recognising diagnostic pathways, improving accountability, more transparent capture and collation of data and ensuring better support is offered through Scotland’s education system; acknowledges a number of recent measures introduced by the Scottish Government, including £7.6 million for neurodevelopmental support for children and adoption of the Royal College of Psychiatrists’ 4-level pathway for neurodevelopmental support for adults, which will ensure differential diagnosis and prescribing capabilities for psychiatric support and referrals for autism, ADHD and other neurodevelopmental conditions; notes the importance of ensuring that the views shared by people with lived experience are key to driving Scotland’s approach and recognises the impact of the Bill consultation period on the LDAN community, as well as the need to rebuild confidence and trust with people to ensure that their voices and views continue to shape reform; affirms that third sector and community groups supporting people and their families must be properly resourced; agrees that changes that can happen much faster now for people through policy reform, service improvement and targeted investment must be pursued, but recognises that the opportunity for

introducing a Learning Disabilities, Autism and Neurodivergence (LDAN) Bill to the Parliament should continue to be an option in the current Parliamentary session if improvements are not comprehensively made."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 54, Against 60, Abstentions 0).

Joe Long moved S7M-01739.1—As an amendment to motion S7M-01739 in the name of Adam Harley (Learning Disabilities, Autism and Neurodivergence (LDAN) Bill), insert at end "; notes the time and expertise contributed by people with lived experience, support professionals and stakeholders to the development of the proposed Bill over several years, and agrees that urgent action to meet the needs of these communities can be delivered alongside legislation that puts sustainable, systemic change on a statutory footing."

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 61, Against 54, Abstentions 0).

Helen McDade moved S7M-01739.3—As an amendment to motion S7M-01739 in the name of Adam Harley (Learning Disabilities, Autism and Neurodivergence (LDAN) Bill), insert at end "; recognises that immediate measures can be taken in the meantime, to improve the lives of people with learning disabilities, autism and neurodiversity, and believes that the process of introducing new legislation is not a barrier to taking action in the short term."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 48, Against 54, Abstentions 13).

The motion, as amended, was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 60, Against 54, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament calls on the Scottish Government to introduce a Learning Disabilities, Autism and Neurodivergence (LDAN) Bill to the Parliament.

3. Business Programme: Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (James Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S7M-01754—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of 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 Ministerial Statement: Supporting Victims of Domestic Abuse: Taking Action to Support Those Affected by Council Tax Debt

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Supporting Young People to Participate in the Labour Market

followed by Motion on Legislative Consent: Sporting Events Bill - UK Legislation

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 Ministerial Statement: Safeguarding and Protecting Children

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Strengthening Scotland's Bus Network

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Tuesday 10 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 11 November 2026

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Social Justice and Housing; Economy, Tourism and Transport

followed by Scottish Labour Party Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.30 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 12 November 2026

1.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

1.30 pm General Questions

2.00 pm First Minister's Questions (Party Leaders)

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Scottish Local Government Elections (Candidacy Rights of Commonwealth Citizens) Bill

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 2 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.

4. Approval of SSI: Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S7M-01755—That the Parliament agrees that the Energy Performance of Buildings (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2026 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

5. Approval of SSI: Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S7M-01756—That the Parliament agrees that the Employment Tribunals Extension of Jurisdiction (Amendment) (Scotland) Order 2026 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

6. Approval of SSI: Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S7M-01757—That the Parliament agrees that the Provision of Early Learning and Childcare (Specified Children) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2026 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

7. Approval of SSI: Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S7M-01758—That the Parliament agrees that the First-tier Tribunal for Scotland (Transfer of Functions and Members of the Police Appeals Tribunal) Amendment Regulations 2026 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

8. Approval of SSI: Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S7M-01759—That the Parliament agrees that the Representation of the People (Postal Voting for Local Government Elections) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2026 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

9. Approval of SSI: Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S7M-01760—That the Parliament agrees that the Scottish Local Government Elections (Election Agents, Expenses and Publication of Information) Amendment Order 2026 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

10. Approval of SSI: Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S7M-01761—That the Parliament agrees that the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 Remedial Order 2026 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

11. Approval of the Welfare of Equidae Code of Practice (Revocation) (Scotland) Notice 2026: Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S7M-01762—That the Parliament agrees that the Welfare of Equidae Code of Practice (Revocation) (Scotland) Notice 2026 (SG/2026/193) be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

12. Designation of Lead Committee: Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S7M-01763—That the Parliament agrees that the Economy, Tourism and Energy Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the third supplementary legislative consent memorandum on the Sporting Events Bill.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

13. 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 5.27pm.

The motion was agreed to.

14. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 1 and 12 as noted above.

15. World Stroke Day 2026: The Parliament debated S7M-00747 in the name of Gary Bouse—That the Parliament notes that 29 October 2026 marks World Stroke Day; recognises that every stroke changes a life in an instant, often leaving survivors, families and carers facing physical, emotional, psychological and financial consequences; understands that the condition is a medical emergency affecting the brain, requiring urgent specialist treatment; acknowledges that it remains Scotland's third biggest killer and the leading cause of adult disability, with a stroke reportedly occurring every 49 minutes in Scotland and more than 150,000 stroke survivors across the country living with the lasting effects of the condition; understands with concern that around one in four people who experience a stroke are of working age with up to one in three forced to leave employment as a result; recognises that around 11,000 people in Scotland experienced stroke in 2025, including more than 600 in NHS Forth Valley, which serves residents of Falkirk West; notes the view that to improve Scotland's stroke services, it requires a comprehensive emergency pathway that ensures people with a suspected stroke are taken to the right service, regardless of location, and provided with timely access to thrombolysis that is local to them where clinically appropriate; further notes the view that this requires a 24/7 national thrombectomy service and improved access to specialist post-stroke rehabilitation in order to improve outcomes and quality of life; notes the belief that without these changes, the cost of stroke to Scotland's health and social care services, which it already considers significant, will continue to rise, and commends the work of Scotland's stroke clinical community, third sector organisations, including the Stroke Association and Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland, and the campaigning of people with lived experience of stroke, their families and loved ones, including the Bundy family, whose experience, arising from the tragic death of family member, Tony, aged 53 from a Basilar Artery Ischaemic Stroke, has helped inform their calls for action to transform stroke care and recovery services across Scotland.

16. Motion without notice: Gary Bouse 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 6:45pm.

David McGill

Clerk of the Parliament

3 November 2026

Appendix

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

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 28 October 2026 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

General Pharmaceutical Council Strategic plan 2025-30 (SG/2026/236) laid under Paragraph 8 of schedule 1 of the Pharmacy Order 2010

Scottish Children's Reporter Administration Annual Report 2025/2026 (SG/2026/199) laid
under paragraph 21 of schedule 3 of the Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011

Scottish Children's Reporter Administration Annual Report and Accounts 2025/2026 (SG/2026/198) laid
under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Annual Report 2025-26 (SPSO/2026/AR) laid under Sections 17(1) and (3) of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002

Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Annual Report and Financial Statements 2025-26 (SG/2026/283) laid
under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 28 October 2026—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 13th Report, 2026 (Session 7): Financial Services and Markets Bill (UK Parliament legislation) – delegated powers exercisable within devolved competence, with reference to LCM-S7-8 and LCM-S7-8a (SP Paper 29)

Economy, Tourism and Energy Committee, 5th Report, 2026 (Session 7): Subordinate legislation considered by the Economy, Tourism and Energy Committee on 27 October 2026 (SP Paper 31)

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