



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 1, No. 22, Session 7

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 8 September 2026

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Time for Reflection: Ailsa McMillan, Humanist Celebrant, Humanist Society Scotland, led Time for Reflection.

2. Revision to Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S7M-01095—That the Parliament agrees to the following revisions to the programme of business for—

(a) Tuesday 8 September 2026—

after

First Minister's Questions (Backbench Members)

insert

followed by Appointment of Junior Scottish Minister

(b) Wednesday 9 September 2026—

after

Portfolio Questions: Public Service Reform, Europe, External Affairs and Energy

insert

followed by Ministerial Statement: Response to the Detection of Bluetongue Virus Serotype 3 (BTV3) in the South-West of Scotland

The motion was agreed to.

3. Election of Committee Convener: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S7M-01096— That the Parliament agrees, under Rule 12.1.2C, that:

(a) election of convener of the Criminal Justice Committee will take place on Wednesday 9 September 2026;

(b) that the location of the election will be Committee Room 5 (the Smith Room); and

(c) that the voting period of the election will commence at 2.30pm and conclude at 7pm.

The motion was agreed to.

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

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

6. Appointment of Junior Scottish Minister: The First Minister (John Swinney) moved S7M-01088—That the Parliament agrees that Alyn Smith be appointed as a junior Scottish Minister.

The motion was agreed to.

7. Programme for Government, An Economy Fit for the Future: The Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Tourism and Transport (Stephen Flynn) moved S7M-01070— That the Parliament notes the publication of the Scottish Government's Programme for Government, Ambitious for Scotland, and its aims for a strong and sustainable economy; welcomes the commitment to deliver economic growth and make Scotland the best place to invest and do business; recognises that raising living standards through supporting the creation of more good, secure and well-paid jobs, can help generate the resources needed to invest in high-quality public services; believes that the transition to low carbon industries, including renewable energy, can create economic opportunity and strengthen Scotland's future competitiveness in order to benefit people and communities across Scotland; welcomes continued investment in infrastructure, connectivity and innovation so that more opportunities can be realised in Scotland, and supports action to increase climate resilience and tackle the climate and nature emergencies.

Daniel Johnson moved amendment S7M-01070.1—

As an amendment to motion S7M-01070 in the name of Stephen Flynn (Programme for Government, An Economy Fit for the Future) insert at end "recognises that reforms to the skills system, including interventions to help those who are economically inactive, are required to drive growth and allow individuals to realise their potential; understands that real partnership between public and

private sectors will be key to producing better outcomes across the economy, and calls on the Scottish Government to outline how its plan for regional devolution will operate to give regions the tools they need to grow local economies and increase prosperity in their communities."

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 104, Against 14, Abstentions 0).

Malcolm Offord moved amendment S7M-01070.4—

As an amendment to motion S7M-01070 in the name of Stephen Flynn (Programme for Government, An Economy Fit for the Future), leave out from "recognises" to end, and insert "believes, however, that successive policies of the Scottish Government have done the opposite, with high energy costs, high taxes and high welfare preventing economic growth; recognises that creating good, secure and well-paid jobs is vital for Scots to be able to build their own healthy and prosperous lives and that these can only be created with economic growth; believes that if Scotland wants real economic growth, it needs cheap, abundant, reliable energy, which is best delivered by maximising oil and gas over the medium-term, and transitioning to nuclear power over the long-term, with renewables playing a complementary role rather than a dominant one.

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 27, Against 92 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0).

Patrick Harvie moved amendment S7M-01070.2—

As an amendment to motion S7M-01070 in the name of Stephen Flynn (Programme for Government, An Economy Fit for the Future), leave out from first "; welcomes" to end and insert "and to raise living standards, invest in high-quality public services, increase climate resilience and tackle the climate and nature emergencies; further notes the Prime Minister's stated intention to develop a new economic model and his criticism of four decades of neoliberalism; believes that significant changes to both UK and Scottish policy will be needed to turn this ambition into reality; calls on both governments to develop long-term strategies to expand public and community ownership in the economy with an immediate focus on municipal bus services, public stakes in renewable energy and mechanisms for stock transfer from the private rented sector to social landlords; urges the UK Government to devolve to Scotland the power to improve working conditions and union rights; calls on both governments to review their regulatory frameworks to ensure that public interest tests have primacy and that growth duties on regulators never impinge on their regulatory purpose, and believes that tax systems at local, Scottish and UK levels must all be used to dramatically cut inequality as well as to raise sufficient revenue to invest in rebuilding public services."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 15 Including 1 proxy vote), Against 86, Abstentions 17).

Rachael Hamilton moved amendment S7M-01070.3—

As an amendment to motion S7M-01070 in the name of Stephen Flynn (Programme for Government, An Economy Fit for the Future), leave out from the first "welcomes" to end and insert "notes that, after almost two decades of Scottish National Party administration, Scotland continues to suffer from weak growth and an increasingly uncompetitive tax environment; further notes that the SNP promised to build an economy fit for the future eight years ago, yet now acknowledges that economic growth has been too low for too long; recognises the Scottish Fiscal Commission's and the Auditor General's concerns about the significant fiscal pressures facing Scotland and the weakness of its business base; considers that further reviews, consultations and interventions such as statutory food price controls risk adding costs and uncertainty rather than removing barriers to growth; regrets that the Programme for Government does too little to unlock the potential of Scotland's rural industries or address the infrastructure constraints facing rural and island communities, and calls on the Scottish Government to cut the burden on workers and businesses and to pursue a genuinely pro-growth agenda that delivers for Scotland's urban and rural economies."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 27, Against 76 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 17).

Liam McArthur moved amendment S7M-01070.5—

As an amendment to motion S7M-01070 in the name of Stephen Flynn (Programme for Government, An Economy Fit for the Future), insert at end "; recognises that work to ensure Scotland has a strong and sustainable economy must address high levels of economic inactivity, an inefficient planning system and the impact of rising business rates; recalls the £178 million of additional rates relief, secured by the Scottish Liberal Democrats in the 2026-27 Budget, while acknowledging that businesses are still feeling the effects of the 2026 rates revaluation with changes required to ensure revaluations don't produce unfair bills that threaten otherwise viable businesses; believes that island and rural businesses play a key role in helping Scotland's economy to grow and that those businesses rely on good transport connections to help move supplies, products and staff; acknowledges that where cuts are made to lifeline flights or where there is consistent disruption to ferry services, the viability of these businesses can be adversely affected, and calls for the Island Resilience Fund to offer more funding, and sooner, to both island businesses and the coastal communities that have been consistently excluded from the scheme."

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 93, Against 11, Abstentions 14 (including 1 proxy vote)).

The motion, as amended, was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 78, Against 41 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament notes the publication of the Scottish Government's Programme for Government, Ambitious for Scotland, and its aims for a strong and sustainable economy; welcomes the commitment to deliver economic growth and make Scotland the best place to invest and do business; recognises that raising living standards through supporting the creation of more good, secure and well-paid jobs, can help generate the resources needed to invest in high-quality public services; believes that the transition to low carbon industries, including renewable energy, can create economic opportunity and strengthen Scotland's future competitiveness in order to benefit people and communities across Scotland; welcomes continued investment in infrastructure, connectivity and innovation so that more opportunities can be realised in Scotland; supports action to increase climate resilience and tackle the climate and nature emergencies; recognises that reforms to the skills system, including interventions to help those who are economically inactive, are required to drive growth and allow individuals to realise their potential; understands that real partnership between public and private sectors will be key to producing better outcomes across the economy; calls on the Scottish Government to outline how its plan for regional devolution will operate to give regions the tools they need to grow local economies and increase prosperity in their communities; recognises that work to ensure Scotland has a strong and sustainable economy must address high levels of economic inactivity, an inefficient planning system and the impact of rising business rates; recalls the £178 million of additional rates relief, secured by the Scottish Liberal Democrats in the 2026-27 Budget, while acknowledging that businesses are still feeling the effects of the 2026 rates revaluation with changes required to ensure revaluations don't produce unfair bills that threaten otherwise viable businesses; believes that island and rural businesses play a key role in helping Scotland's economy to grow and that those businesses rely on good transport connections to help move supplies, products and staff; acknowledges that where cuts are made to lifeline flights or where there is consistent disruption to ferry services, the viability of these businesses can be adversely affected, and calls for the Island Resilience Fund to offer more funding, and sooner, to both island businesses and the coastal communities that have been consistently excluded from the scheme.

8. Committee Membership: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S7M-01097— That the Parliament agrees that—

Ben Macpherson be appointed to replace Alyn Smith as a member of the Criminal Justice Committee

Steven Bonnar be appointed to replace David Linden as a member of the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

9. Substitution on Committees: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S7M-01097— That the Parliament agrees that Ben Macpherson be appointed to replace Steven Bonnar as the Scottish National Party substitute on the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

10. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 7, 8 and 9 as noted above.

11. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service's Service Delivery Review: The Parliament debated S7M-00707 in the name of Katy Clark—That the Parliament expresses its dismay at the decision taken by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Board to proceed with service changes outlined in its Service Delivery Review, despite what it believes has been significant public opposition, including in the West Scotland region; considers that these service changes will result in station closures, the withdrawal of fire appliances, reduced fire cover and increased response times; understands that there has already been a loss of 1,250 jobs and an around £74 million per year reduction in real-terms funding of the SFRS since 2012-13, and notes the calls for increased and sustained investment in the SFRS to ensure that it can keep the public safe, improve response times and respond to challenges, such as the reported rising number of wildfires.

12. Motion without Notice: Katy Clark 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 6.53 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
8 September 2026

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 8 September 2026—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 3rd Report, 2026 (Session 7):
Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law
Reform Committee on 8 September 2026 (SP Paper 4)

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 4 September 2026 and are subject to the affirmative procedure—

Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 Remedial Order 2026
[draft]

laid under section 13(2) of the Convention Rights (Compliance) (Scotland) Act
2001

Representation of the People (Postal Voting for Local Government Elections)
(Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2026 [draft]

laid under section 201(2) of the Representation of the People Act 1983

Scottish Local Government Elections (Election Agents, Expenses and Publication of
Information)

Amendment Order 2026 [draft]

laid under section 16(5) of the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004

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

Maximum Number of Judges (Scotland) Order 2026 [draft]

laid under section 1(3) of the Court of Session Act 1988

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 8 September 2026 and
are subject to the affirmative procedure—

Renewables Obligation (Scotland) Amendment (No. 2) Order 2026 [draft]

laid under section 32L(3) of the Electricity Act 1989

Provision of Early Learning and Childcare (Specified Children) (Scotland)
Amendment Order 2026 [draft]

laid under section 99 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014

Negative Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 4 September 2026 and

are subject to the negative procedure—

Representation of the People (Absent Voting at Local Government Elections) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2026 (SSI 2026/251)
laid under section 61(3) of the Local Electoral Administration and Registration Services (Scotland) Act 2006

Act of Sederunt (Fees of Messengers-at-Arms and Sheriff Officers) (Amendment) 2026 (SSI 2026/252)
laid under section 28(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

Scottish Local Government Elections Amendment Order 2026 (SSI 2026/254)
laid under section 16(4) of the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004

Laid Only Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 4 September 2026 and is not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Act of Sederunt (Summary Cause Rules 2002 Amendment) (Domestic Abuse (Protection) (Scotland) Act 2021) 2026 (SSI 2026/253)
laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

Other Documents

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 1 September 2026 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Dundee City Council Annual Low Emission Zone Report (DCC/2026/01) laid under Section 19 of Part 2 of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 4 September 2026 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Draft Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 Remedial Order 2026: Statement of Reasons (SG/2026/210) laid under section 13(4) of the Convention Rights (Compliance) (Scotland) Act 2001

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 7 September 2026 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Annual Report of the Inspectors of Burial, Cremation and Funeral Directors: 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026 (SG/2026/208) laid under 93(6) of the Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Act 2016

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 8 September 2026 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Commissioner for Children and Young People Investigation: Police use of

force against children (CCYP/2026/02) laid under Section 11(4) of the
Commissioner for Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2003

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