



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 1, No. 23, Session 7

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 9 September 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 Agriculture, Marine and the Islands (Jim Fairlie) made a statement and answered questions on the Response to the Detection of Bluetongue Virus Serotype 3 (BTV3) in the South-West of Scotland.

3. Building Stronger, Safer and Inclusive Communities, Together: The Minister for Equalities and International Development (Simita Kumar) moved S7M-01084—That the Parliament agrees that all individuals should be treated with dignity and respect and able to feel safe in their communities; supports robust criminal justice responses to violence, intimidation, hatred and disorder that harm individuals, and damage community relations; rejects attempts by the small minority of people who create fear, division and hostility within Scotland's communities in person and online, and supports efforts to build trust, strengthen cohesion and ensure that everyone can live safely free from prejudice, hatred and discrimination.

Pauline McNeill moved amendment S7M-01084.4—

As an amendment to S7M-01084 in the name of Simita Kumar (Building Stronger, Safer and Inclusive Communities, Together), insert at end, " ; recognises that Scotland will only build safe and inclusive communities by

fundamentally tackling inequality and delivering better opportunities and living standards for everyone, and calls on the Scottish Government to restore policing at a local level, while addressing the needs of communities across the country, including by reversing declining Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) scores, reforming the skills system and improving access to good local health and social care."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 24, Against 95 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0).

Thomas Kerr moved amendment S7M-01084.1—

As an amendment to S7M-01084 in the name of Simita Kumar (Building Stronger, Safer and Inclusive Communities, Together), leave out from first "supports" to end, and insert "believes, however that many people do not feel safe in their communities and that the Scottish Government is ignoring the genuine issues created by a lack of integration and assimilation by previous generations of immigrants to Scotland; highlights the example of the Scottish Government withdrawing the funding of one year English lessons for child asylum seekers, prior to mainstream school, as an example of direct policy choices which, it believes, have driven division and destroyed cohesion in communities across Scotland, and calls on the Scottish Government to recognise the undue pressure put on Scotland's working-class communities as well as the genuine concerns raised by communities regarding the impacts of its policy decisions and not to dismiss them."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 17, Against 102 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0).

Kate Nevens moved amendment S7M-01084.3—

As an amendment to motion S7M-01084 in the name of Simita Kumar (Building Stronger, Safer and Inclusive Communities, Together), insert at end "recognises the disproportionate harms to marginalised groups, and condemns the far right's deliberate incitement of violence against migrants, asylum-seekers, Muslims and people of colour; further recognises the need to work with community groups to co-design strategies for community safety, ensuring that any response is shaped by those most impacted by violence and discrimination; and calls on the Scottish Government to increase investment in community-led safe spaces, culturally appropriate mental health and wellbeing services, crisis support as well as the safety and security of frontline charities and community organisations that are facing threats and abuse."

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

Meghan Gallacher moved amendment S7M-01084.2—

As an amendment to S7M-01084 in the name of Simita Kumar (Building Stronger, Safer and Inclusive Communities, Together), leave out from first "supports" to end and insert "believes that the first duty of government is to protect the public and that public safety must never be compromised by political choices, financial pressures or a lack of capacity within the justice system; further believes that there must be consequences for committing crime and that those who commit acts of violence, intimidation, hatred, disorder and other offences must face swift and meaningful punishment; notes concerns that the scale and pace of asylum and immigration arrivals in some communities has placed pressure on local services and community cohesion, and calls on the Scottish Government to review the housing rules which have contributed to that pressure; gives its full support to the police and other law enforcement agencies in taking firm action against those who openly flout the law; rejects early release policies that put dangerous offenders back into communities because of pressure on the prison estate; calls for bail laws to be reviewed so that the protection of victims, particularly women and girls, is given greater weight; condemns unacceptable court delays that leave victims waiting years for justice and undermine confidence in the system; calls for sufficient police numbers and resources to maintain visible, effective frontline policing, and believes that safe and cohesive communities depend on upholding the rule of law and ensuring that criminal behaviour has consequences."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 27, Against 90 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0).

The motion, as amended, was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 92 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 26, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament agrees that all individuals should be treated with dignity and respect and able to feel safe in their communities; supports robust criminal justice responses to violence, intimidation, hatred and disorder that harm individuals, and damage community relations; rejects attempts by the small minority of people who create fear, division and hostility within Scotland's communities in person and online; supports efforts to build trust, strengthen cohesion and ensure that everyone can live safely free from prejudice, hatred and discrimination; recognises the disproportionate harms to marginalised groups, and condemns the far right's deliberate incitement of violence against migrants, asylum-seekers, Muslims and people of colour; further recognises the need to work with community groups to co-design strategies for community safety, ensuring that any response is shaped by those most impacted by violence and discrimination; and calls on the Scottish Government to increase investment in community-led safe spaces, culturally appropriate mental health and wellbeing services, crisis support as well as the safety and security of frontline charities and community organisations that are facing threats and abuse.

4. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and

Veterans (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S7M-01100— That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 15 September 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 Debate: Preventing Violence Against Women for an Equally Safe Scotland

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.30 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 16 September 2026

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Justice; Health and Care

followed by Scottish Green Party Debate

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.30 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 17 September 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: Addressing the Harms of Health Misinformation

followed by Ministerial Statement: Ferguson Marine: Planned Investment and Future Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Tuesday 22 September 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 23 September 2026

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

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

followed by Scottish Government Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.30 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 24 September 2026

1.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

1.30 pm General Questions

2.00 pm First Minister's Questions (Party Leaders)

followed by Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body Questions

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 14 September 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. Designation of Lead Committee: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S7M-01101— That the Parliament agrees that the Economy, Tourism and Energy Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the second supplementary legislative consent memorandum on the Sporting Events Bill.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

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

7. Walking Scotland's 30th Anniversary: The Parliament debated S7M-00762 in the name of Paul McLennan—That the Parliament congratulates Walking Scotland on its 30th anniversary; notes the charity's significant contribution since its inception to developing and improving Scotland's path network and supporting and promoting walking for all through activities, grants and guidance; welcomes the Scottish Government's continued commitment to walking and wheeling; notes that 86% of people in Scotland already walk or wheel regularly and that many want to do so more often; believes that investment in walking and wheeling delivers exceptional value, returning around £6 for every £1 spent and preventing thousands of serious health conditions; notes the view that walking is one of the easiest and most accessible ways to improve the nation's health and wellbeing, one of the best ways to tackle the climate-nature emergency, increase social interactions and connectedness in communities across Scotland, including in the East Lothian Coast and Lammermuirs area, as well as generate economic benefits; notes the call for the Scottish Government to bring forward its proposed national walking framework as soon as practical and launch a path fund, and wishes Walking Scotland continued success over the coming years.

The meeting closed at 6.25 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
9 September 2026

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

Other Documents

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 9 September 2026 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Scotland's colleges 2026: A report prepared for the Auditor General for Scotland (AGS/2026/6) laid under the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

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