



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 1, No. 25, Session 7

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 15 September 2026

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

- 1. Time for Reflection:** Hafiz Muhammad Imtiaz Ali, Imam, Hillview Islamic and Education Centre, led Time for Reflection.
- 2. General Questions:** Questions were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.
- 3. First Minister's Questions (Backbench Members):** Questions were answered by the First Minister (John Swinney).
- 4. Preventing Violence Against Women for an Equally Safe Scotland:** The First Minister (John Swinney) moved S7M-01163—That the Parliament condemns violence against women and girls in all its forms, noting that this includes physical, psychological and online abuse; acknowledges the significant damage and harm that such violence causes to women, girls and wider society; recognises that eradicating such violence requires a focus on prevention and on challenging the attitudes and behaviours that fundamentally underpin violence against women and girls, and agrees to demonstrate collective leadership in challenging and changing sexist and misogynistic attitudes among boys, men and those who seek to influence and stoke such damaging behaviour.

Amanda Lindsay moved amendment S7M-01163.2—

As an amendment to S7M-01163 in the name of John Swinney (Preventing Violence Against Women for an Equally Safe Scotland), leave out from

"recognises" to end and insert, "regrets that private citizens were required to take legal action against the Scottish Government before it was able to define what a woman is; recognises that policy to tackle violence against women and girls has to combine multiple angles, however, believes that tarring all men and boys with the same brush as the few who hold such attitudes and commit violent acts risks creating further division and unfairly attributes harm to those who are not responsible for it; believes that the views that some male immigrants have are incompatible with the Scottish Government's previously expressed desire to tackle misogyny; highlights statistics which, it believes, indicate a connection between immigrants from certain countries and a marked increase in violent crimes, and calls on the Scottish Government to publish statistics on violent crime by immigration status and nationality, in order to ensure that all relevant evidence is available to inform action to bring an end to violence against women and girls."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 17, Against 102 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

Jackie Baillie moved amendment S7M-01163.1—

As an amendment to motion S7M-01163 in the name of John Swinney (Preventing Violence Against Women for an Equally Safe Scotland), insert at end "; welcomes the Scottish Government's commitment to introduce a pilot of GPS monitoring for suspected domestic abusers released on bail, and calls on the Scottish Government to outline urgently a timetable for its implementation and wider roll-out."

After debate, the amendment was agreed to (DT).

Russell Findlay moved amendment S7M-01163.3—

As an amendment to motion S7M-01163 in the name of John Swinney (Preventing Violence Against Women for an Equally Safe Scotland), insert at end "; recognises with concern that crimes of a sexual nature and domestic abuse are increasing in Scotland but that many victims still do not report them to the police; notes that Scottish Government legislation passed in 2023 removed a presumption against bail for those accused of sexual or domestic abuse offences despite warnings from female crime victims and groups representing them that this would cause further harm to women; further notes with concern a 2024 report by HM Inspectorate of Prosecutions in Scotland, which found that bail breaches are not always taken seriously by the justice system; believes that delays in the justice system and a lack of transparency around plea deals between prosecutors and accused criminals continue to cause trauma to victims; further believes that proposals in a recent Scottish Government consultation risk further weakening sentencing by damaging judicial independence and failing to properly punish perpetrators; considers that these proposals are partly as a result of the government's failure to build sufficient prison capacity in order to keep the public safe; further considers that sentencing guidelines, which recommend non-custodial sentences for criminals aged under 25, are unjust and detrimental to women who have suffered violence or sexual violence by adult males aged under 25, and calls on the

Scottish Government to ensure that women and girls are protected by the justice system by reinstating safeguards for bail and remand, treating bail breaches seriously, abandoning its plans for automatic early release for all long-term prisoners and scrapping the under 25 sentencing guidelines."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 26, Against 78 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 15).

The motion, as amended, was agreed to (DT).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament condemns violence against women and girls in all its forms, noting that this includes physical, psychological and online abuse; acknowledges the significant damage and harm that such violence causes to women, girls and wider society; recognises that eradicating such violence requires a focus on prevention and on challenging the attitudes and behaviours that fundamentally underpin violence against women and girls; agrees to demonstrate collective leadership in challenging and changing sexist and misogynistic attitudes among boys, men and those who seek to influence and stoke such damaging behaviour; welcomes the Scottish Government's commitment to introduce a pilot of GPS monitoring for suspected domestic abusers released on bail, and calls on the Scottish Government to outline urgently a timetable for its implementation and wider roll-out.

5. Revision to Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S7M-01186— Thursday 17 September 2026—

after

2.00 pm First Minister's Questions (Party Leaders)

insert

followed by Ministerial Statement: Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2025

delete

5.00 pm Decision Time

and insert

5.30 pm Decision Time

The motion was agreed to.

6. Decision Time: The Parliament took a decision on item 4 as noted above.

7. Celebrating Angus Berries and Scotland's Soft Fruit Sector: The Parliament debated S7M-00788 in the name of Lloyd Melville —That the Parliament celebrates Scotland's soft fruit sector and its important contribution to the rural economy, food and drink industry and the country's reputation for high-quality produce; recognises Angus as one of Scotland's leading berry-growing areas and applauds the

growers, seasonal workers, packers, processors and retailers who bring Scottish strawberries, raspberries, blackberries and blueberries to consumers; notes that almost 2,000 hectares of land in Scotland are devoted to soft fruit production, including around 1,000 hectares for strawberries; welcomes the contribution of Angus Growers, the Arbroath-based grower-owned producer organisation, and its members; commends the family-run Balhungie Berry Farm, near Monifieth, which Lloyd Melville MSP recently visited, for growing and selling fresh local berries and connecting people with Angus agriculture; welcomes initiatives such as the Angus Berry Trail, which link berry production with farm shops, hospitality and tourism; acknowledges what it sees as the challenges facing growers, including rising costs, unpredictable weather and access to seasonal labour; notes the belief that more should be done to promote the quality, provenance and nutritional benefits of Scottish berries; further notes the calls for governments, tourism bodies, retailers and public sector caterers to work with growers to promote Scottish berries at home and abroad, including through greater use of seasonal berries in public sector menus, and wishes everyone involved in Scotland's berry sector continued success.

8. Motion without Notice: Lloyd Melville 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 6.41 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
15 September 2026

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 14 September 2026—

Social Justice, Housing and Local Government Committee, 1st Report, 2026
(Session 7): The Visitor Levy (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland)
Regulations 2026 [draft] (SP Paper 6)

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 15 September 2026 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Report to the Scottish Parliament on the Cladding Remediation Programme September 2026 (SG/2026/121) laid under Section 30 & 31 of the Housing (Cladding Remediation) (Scotland) Act 2024

Scottish Information Commissioner Annual Report 2025-26 (SG/2026/204) laid under Section 46(1) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

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