



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 1, No. 29, Session 7

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 23 September 2026

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Climate Action and Rural Affairs, and then on Education, Culture and Gaelic, were answered by Cabinet Secretaries 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 Addressing Drug Harms.

3. Building a Flood Resilient Scotland: Delivering Action for Communities in a Changing Climate: The Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Rural Affairs (Gillian Martin) moved S7M-01283—That the Parliament recognises Scotland's increasing risk of flooding as a result of climate change and the significant impacts flooding can have on communities, businesses and the environment; further recognises the need to continue to adapt to these changes at pace; welcomes the commitments in the Programme for Government to additional investment in flood resilience and coastal adaptation and the progress being made through partnership working among local authorities, the third sector, communities and wider partners to improve flood resilience; acknowledges the broad range of actions and continued public investment in flood protection schemes, nature-based solutions and community preparedness; recognises the need to support those most vulnerable to flooding with adaptation and recovery, and agrees that building a flood resilient Scotland is essential to protecting people, homes and livelihoods.

Donald MacKinnon moved amendment S7M-01283.2—

As an amendment to motion S7M-01283 in the name of Gillian Martin (Building a Flood Resilient Scotland: Delivering Action for Communities in a Changing Climate), leave out from "acknowledges" to "preparedness" and insert "calls on the Scottish Government to increase and guarantee funding for the remaining incomplete flood protection schemes from Cycle 1 and to ensure that future funding cycles are adequately resourced and provide flexibility to accommodate increased costs; believes that further Scottish Government support is required for nature-based solutions and community preparedness".

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 51, Against 54, Abstentions 14).

Jamie Langan moved amendment S7M-01283.4—

As an amendment to motion S7M-01283 in the name of Gillian Martin (Building a Flood Resilient Scotland: Delivering Action for Communities in a Changing Climate), leave out from "as" to end and insert "and that its contribution to global emissions is negligible; believes that this Parliament cannot control global weather patterns and that flooding risks will persist regardless of future emissions reductions; further believes that government policy must therefore place a greater emphasis on Scotland's ability to adapt, prepare for and recover from flooding and on protecting homes, businesses and infrastructure from its effects."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 16, Against 103, Abstentions 0).

Mark Ruskell moved amendment S7M-01283.5—

As an amendment to motion S7M-01283 in the name of Gillian Martin (Building a Flood Resilient Scotland: Delivering Action for Communities in a Changing Climate), insert at end "; recognises the range of actions that communities across Scotland are taking to reduce their flood risk; is concerned that small communities can miss out on funding opportunities under the current model; believes that communities must have an active role in developing flood management plans; further believes that such plans must be developed on a catchment-wide scale, and calls on the Scottish Government to work with landowners to take forward nature-based solutions to flooding through public land management and agriculture support schemes."

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

Finlay Carson moved amendment S7M-01283.3—

As an amendment to motion S7M-01283 in the name of Gillian Martin (Building a Flood Resilient Scotland: Delivering Action for Communities in a Changing Climate), leave out from "Scotland's" to end and insert "that Scotland is facing an increasing risk of flooding; further recognises that flooding is becoming more frequent, more intense, more damaging and more costly due to changes in the

climate; highlights that the impact of flooding is felt throughout Scotland, including in urban, rural and coastal communities; further highlights that it affects homes, businesses and livelihoods across Scotland; appreciates the funding announcement made in the 2026-31 Programme for Government but questions whether further support is needed; calls on the Scottish Government to ensure that the public is aware of the risks and mitigation efforts related to flooding; urges the Scottish Government to ensure that national strategies are in place to target flood prevention and support when flooding does happen, and also urges local authorities to consult widely and transparently on proposed flood defence plans and to take full account of local views, and asks all involved to make sure that efforts to prevent, mitigate and tackle flooding are directed at all parts of Scotland facing a substantial and rising threat."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 26, Against 94, Abstentions 0).

Willie Rennie moved amendment S7M-01283.1—

As an amendment to motion S7M-01283 in the name of Gillian Martin (Building a Flood Resilient Scotland: Delivering Action for Communities in a Changing Climate), insert at end "; believes, however, that the mix of financial support can be complex and fails to recognise the economic value of land; further believes that the SEPA permissions process can be demanding, confusing and a barrier to action, and calls for the value of grants to reflect the economic value of land and for the appointment of catchment coordinators to work with communities and land owners to develop a plan of action."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 51, Against 68, Abstentions 0).

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

4. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S7M-01295—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 29 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: Empowering Communities and Strengthening Local Democracy

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.30 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 30 September 2026

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

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

followed by Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.30 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 1 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: Scotland's Priorities for the UK Budget

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Tuesday 6 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 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 7 October 2026

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Deputy First Minister Responsibilities, Finance and Local Government, Parliamentary Business and Veterans; Public Service Reform, Europe, External Affairs and Energy

followed by Scottish Government Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.30 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 8 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 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 28 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. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S7M-01296—That the Parliament agrees that the Visitor Levy (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2026 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

6. Membership of the Committee of the Regions UK Contact Group: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S7M-01297—That the Parliament agrees to nominate Pauline Stafford as a full member and David Green as an alternate member of the Committee of the Regions UK Contact Group.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

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

8. Childhood Cancer Awareness Month: The Parliament debated S7M-01166 in the name of Jackie Baillie—That the Parliament recognises that September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month; understands that around 320 children and young people in Scotland are diagnosed with cancer each year, and that cancer is the leading cause of death by disease for that age group; further understands that children and young people with cancer have unique needs and experiences compared with older adults, including in relation to diagnosis, treatment, mental health, research, and the financial impact of cancer for them and their families; notes that the current strategy, *Collaborative and Compassionate Cancer Care: The Cancer Strategy for Children and Young People in Scotland 2021-2026* reaches the end of its lifecycle in 2026; notes what it sees as the significant financial impact that cancer has on children and young people and their families, including the cost of travelling to treatment, with research from Young Lives vs Cancer showing costs averaging £700 every month, of which £250 is spent on travelling to treatment, and that one in 10 report missing or delaying treatment because of travel costs; commends the work of Young Lives vs Cancer and other third sector organisations supporting young cancer patients across Scotland, and notes the belief that Childhood Cancer Awareness Month is an opportunity for the Parliament to reflect on the unique, practical, emotional and financial impact of cancer on children and young people in Scotland and their families.

The meeting closed at 6.39 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
23 September 2026

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 22 September 2026—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 7th Report, 2026 (Session 7):
Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law
Reform Committee on 22 September 2026 (SP Paper 9)

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 23 September 2026 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**Implementation of the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009:
Implementation Report (2021 - 2025) (SG/2026/213)** laid under section 52 of the
Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009

**Independent National Whistleblowing Officer: Compendium of Case Reports
for September 2026 (INWO/2026/06)** laid under Sections 15(1) and 15(1A) of the
Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002

**King's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer Annual Report and Accounts for
the year ended 31 March 2026 (SG/2026/172)** laid under Section 22(5) of the
Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

**Scottish Public Services Ombudsman: Compendium of Case Reports for
September 2026 (SPSO/2026/08)** laid under Sections 15(1) and 15(1A) of the
Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002

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