



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 1, No. 32, Session 7

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 30 September 2026

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Social Justice and Housing, and then on Economy, Tourism and Transport, were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and a Minister.

2. Consent for Jackdaw and Rosebank: Liam Kerr moved S7M-01376—That the Parliament believes that consent should be granted for the Jackdaw gas field and the Rosebank oil and gas field, recognising the significant economic benefits that this would bring.

The Minister for Europe, External Affairs and Energy (Stephen Gethins) moved amendment S7M-01376.5—

As an amendment to motion S7M-01376 in the name of Liam Kerr (Consent for Jackdaw and Rosebank), leave out from "believes" to end and insert "recognises that the UK Government will be making quasi-judicial decisions in relation to Jackdaw and Rosebank, and in doing so, will have to make assessments, in line with the updated statutory guidance issued following recent court cases, of the full climate impact of those proposals, while also taking due account of energy security considerations; believes that all applications must be fully assessed on a case by case basis within the appropriate legal framework; supports efforts to deliver a just transition and to take climate action to support the utilisation of clean energy to benefit the creation of jobs in the north east and protect the environment, and calls for the creation of a Future Generations Fund from all further income from oil and gas resources taken by the UK Treasury, dedicated

to help grow Scotland's renewables industry, support the communities who have generated hundreds of billions of pounds in taxation for the UK Government, and strengthen the supply chain to ensure ongoing investment and job creation in Scotland."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 53, Against 66, Abstentions 0).

Duncan Massey moved amendment S7M-01376.2—

As an amendment to S7M-01376 in the name of Liam Kerr (Consent for Jackdaw and Rosebank), insert at end ", and agrees that, for the long-term success of the industry, exploration drilling and licences should be resumed."

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

Daniel Johnson moved amendment S7M-01376.3—

As an amendment to S7M-01376 in the name of Liam Kerr (Consent for Jackdaw and Rosebank), leave out after second "that" to end and insert "oil and gas production will remain part of Scotland's energy mix for decades to come and is vital to energy security and the economic security of working families and communities; notes that decisions on whether to grant consent for the Rosebank and Jackdaw developments will be taken at ministerial level by the UK Energy Secretary through a quasi-judicial process, with final consenting decisions resting with the North Sea Transition Authority; recognises the need for a wider programme of reindustrialisation, supporting jobs, domestic supply chains and investment in communities across Scotland, and believes that the transition to a lower-carbon economy must be a just transition that protects workers and communities while creating new industrial opportunities in the energy industries of the future."

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 77, Against 42, Abstentions 0).

Kristopher Leask moved amendment S7M-01376.1—

As an amendment to motion S7M-01376 in the name of Liam Kerr (Consent for Jackdaw and Rosebank), leave out from "believes" to end, and insert "agrees that consent should not be granted for the Jackdaw and Rosebank oil and gas fields; believes that the exploitation of these fields would neither deliver secure energy jobs for oil and gas workers nor cheaper energy for consumers, but would instead facilitate profiteering by corporate executives and shareholders; highlights polling published earlier in 2026 indicating that almost two thirds of people in Scotland oppose new oil and gas drilling in the North Sea whilst 90% care about climate change; urges both the UK and Scottish governments to support renewable energy, particularly community- or publicly-owned projects, as the only pathway to provide economic security for workers and energy security for the nation, and calls on the Scottish Government to ensure that the Just

Transition Fund delivers genuine economic transformation and resilience for workers and communities."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 15, Against 101, Abstentions 0).

Sanne Dijkstra-Downie moved amendment S7M-01376.4—

As an amendment to motion S7M-01376 in the name of Liam Kerr (Consent for Jackdaw and Rosebank), leave out from "believes" to end and insert "notes that the UK Government is due to make a determination on the Jackdaw gas field and the Rosebank oil and gas field; recognises that, in an ever-changing geopolitical climate, there is a real need to consider Scotland's energy security; believes that, in the case of the Jackdaw development, there could be arguments in favour of consent, including lower carbon intensity, improving UK energy security and economic benefits for those communities directly linked to the oil and gas sector that risk being left behind without a strong just transition; further believes, however, that any decision on consent should not delay the transition away from fossil fuels nor the work required to reduce demand for oil and gas; believes that there is a strong need for a greater electrification of heating, transport and industry, an improvement in energy efficiency in homes and an expansion of renewable energy in order to meet net zero objectives, and calls on both the Scottish and UK governments to work together to reduce emissions, drive down demand on fossil fuels and deliver a just transition."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 8, Against 94, Abstentions 16).

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

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament believes oil and gas production will remain part of Scotland's energy mix for decades to come and is vital to energy security and the economic security of working families and communities; notes that decisions on whether to grant consent for the Rosebank and Jackdaw developments will be taken at ministerial level by the UK Energy Secretary through a quasi-judicial process, with final consenting decisions resting with the North Sea Transition Authority; recognises the need for a wider programme of reindustrialisation, supporting jobs, domestic supply chains and investment in communities across Scotland, and believes that the transition to a lower-carbon economy must be a just transition that protects workers and communities while creating new industrial opportunities in the energy industries of the future.

3. Protecting Scots from Income Tax Rises: Craig Hoy moved S7M-01377—
That the Parliament notes with concern the Scottish Government's projected £4.77 billion funding gap by 2029-30; warns that, on the current trajectory, Scots risk facing further income tax rises to balance the budget, and calls on the Scottish Government to reaffirm its commitment not to introduce new income tax bands or increase income tax rates.

The Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government (Jenny Gilruth) moved amendment S7M-01377.4—

As an amendment to motion S7M-01377 in the name of Craig Hoy (Protecting Scots from Income Tax Rises), leave out from "notes" to end and insert "recognises that Scotland's income tax system is the fairest and the most progressive in the UK; notes that the majority of income taxpayers in Scotland continue to pay less tax than in the rest of the UK; recognises that, in a time of economic volatility, Scotland's income tax policy should be founded, as far as possible, on stability and certainty, and understands the Scottish Government has previously stated that it has no plans to increase the number of bands or their rates over the lifetime of this Parliament."

Kim Schmulian moved amendment S7M-01377.1—

As an amendment to motion S7M-01377 in the name of Craig Hoy (Protecting Scots from Income Tax Rises), leave out from "reaffirm" to end, and insert "introduce a new 0% rate of income tax to increase the amount that taxpayers in Scotland can earn before having to pay income tax."

Joe Fagan moved amendment S7M-01377.3—

As an amendment to motion S7M-01377 in the name of Craig Hoy (Protecting Scots from Income Tax Rises), insert at end "; believes that addressing the pressures on Scotland's public finances requires reform of the wider devolved tax system, including council tax and non-domestic rates; notes that the Parliament has previously supported the immediate convening of cross-party talks on council tax reform, and calls on the Scottish Government to respect the will of the Parliament and convene those talks without further delay."

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 104, Against 5, Abstentions 10).

Ross Greer moved amendment S7M-01377.5—

As an amendment to motion S7M-01377 in the name of Craig Hoy (Protecting Scots from Income Tax Rises), leave out from "with concern" to end and insert "that the top 2% of households in Scotland hold more wealth than half of the population combined; believes that, having already made substantial progress in delivering a fairer income tax system in Scotland, there is now a need to shift the balance of taxation from work to wealth in order to promote economic prosperity and fairly fund public services; calls on the UK Government to devolve the fiscal powers necessary to develop a robust wealth tax system; further calls on the Scottish Government to improve the taxation of wealth through existing devolved powers, in light of the conclusion in its own literature review of wealth taxation in Scotland that 'reform of existing taxes on wealth may offer a more practical route to improving the taxation of wealth in Scotland' than a Scotland-wide wealth tax."

After debate, amendment S7M-01377.4 was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 53, Against 51, Abstentions 15). As a result, amendments S6M- S7M-01377.1 and S7M-01377.5 were pre-empted.

The motion, as amended, was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 69, Against 34, Abstentions 15).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament recognises that Scotland's income tax system is the fairest and the most progressive in the UK; notes that the majority of income taxpayers in Scotland continue to pay less tax than in the rest of the UK; recognises that, in a time of economic volatility, Scotland's income tax policy should be founded, as far as possible, on stability and certainty; understands the Scottish Government has previously stated that it has no plans to increase the number of bands or their rates over the lifetime of this Parliament; believes that addressing the pressures on Scotland's public finances requires reform of the wider devolved tax system, including council tax and non-domestic rates; notes that the Parliament has previously supported the immediate convening of cross-party talks on council tax reform, and calls on the Scottish Government to respect the will of the Parliament and convene those talks without further delay.

4. Ministerial Statement: The Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Tourism and Transport (Stephen Flynn) made a statement and answered questions on Alexander Dennis Ltd.

5. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S7M-01390—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of 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 Ministerial Statement: Improving Outcomes for Neurodivergent People, Autistic People and People with Learning Disabilities

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Scotland's Prosperity and Future in Europe

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 Debate: Supporting Scotland's Fishing Industry

followed by Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body Debate: Scottish Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund

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 Ministerial Statement: Planning for Winter and Improving Hospital Flow

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Strengthening Scotland's Cyber Resilience

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Tuesday 27 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 28 October 2026

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Justice; Health and Care

followed by Scottish Liberal Democrats Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.30 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 29 October 2026

1.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

1.30 pm General Questions

2.00 pm First Minister's Questions (Party Leaders)

followed by Committee 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 6 October 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.

Max Bannerman moved amendment S7M-01390.1—

As an amendment to motion S7M-01390 in the name of Jamie Hepburn (Business Programme), leave out—

"followed by Scottish Government Debate: Scotland's Prosperity and Future in Europe"

and insert—

"followed by Scottish Government Debate: Addressing Scotland's Drug Deaths"

After debate the amendment was disagreed to (by division: For 43, Against 75, Abstentions 0).

The motion was agreed to (by division: For 91, Against 27, Abstentions 0).

6. Substitution on Committees: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S7M-01391—That the Parliament agrees that—

Tim Eagle be appointed to replace James Adams as the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party substitute on the Rural Affairs Committee; and

James Adams be appointed to replace Tim Eagle as the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party substitute on the Social Justice, Housing and Local Government Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT)

7. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 2, 3 and 6 as noted above.

8. Building Scotland's Resilience to Wildfires and Other Climate Shocks: The Parliament debated S7M-00976 in the name of Ariane Burgess—That the Parliament notes with concern reports regarding the growing frequency and severity of extreme weather events due to climate breakdown, including wildfires, droughts, and flooding across Scotland; shares its concern for communities across Scotland that have already faced wildfires this year, including in the Highlands and Islands; commends emergency services, conservation bodies, including rewilding organisations, community groups, gamekeepers, farmers, volunteers and others for coming together to tackle the devastating wildfire in the Cairngorms; notes the belief that there is an urgent need to shift focus from emergency response alone toward long-term landscape-scale prevention and climate resilience; recognises the role that healthy, restored ecosystems, such as rewetted peatlands, restored wetlands and mosaic habitats created by the action of native animals, have alongside human interventions in building resilient landscapes; notes the calls for the UK Government to create a dedicated Climate Shock Fund to cover the costs of preparing for and preventing climate shocks, and further notes the calls for the Scottish Government to convene a Scottish landscape resilience summit to ensure that a cross-sector, multi-stakeholder approach is taken to share knowledge and best practice across Scotland.

9. Motion without Notice: Ariane Burgess 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 7.57 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
30 September 2026

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 29 September 2026—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 8th Report, 2026 (Session 7):
Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law
Reform Committee on 29 September 2026 (SP Paper 11)

The following reports were published on 30 September 2026—

Economy, Tourism and Energy Committee, 1st Report, 2026 (Session 7):
Subordinate legislation considered by the Economy, Tourism and Energy
Committee on 22 September 2026 (SP Paper 12)

Economy, Tourism and Energy Committee, 2nd Report, 2026 (Session 7):
Report on the supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Cyber
Security and Resilience (Network and Information Systems) Bill (UK
Parliament legislation) (SP Paper 13)

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 30 September 2026 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

HGV Speed Limit (Variation) (Scotland) Regulations 2026 [draft]
laid under section 86(8) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 30 September 2026 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Renewable energy: The Scottish Government's Offshore Wind Investment Programme – A report prepared for the Auditor General for Scotland (AGS/2026/8) laid under the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

The Disabled Persons' Parking Places (Scotland) Act 2009 - Annual Report on Local Authorities' Functions 2025 - 2026 (SG/2026/231) laid under section 12(1)(c) of the Disabled Persons' Parking Places (Scotland) Act 2009

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