



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 77, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 4 February 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, Economy and Gaelic; and then on Finance and Local Government, were answered by the Deputy First Minister, a Cabinet Secretary, and Ministers.

**2. Saving Scottish Hospitality:** Murdo Fraser moved S6M-20653—That the Parliament recognises the pressures facing Scotland's hospitality sector; calls on the Scottish Government to postpone the forthcoming non-domestic rates revaluation until a comprehensive review of the valuation methodology has been completed, and further calls on the Scottish Government to provide 100% rates relief for all hospitality businesses with commercial property valued up to £100,000.

The Minister for Public Finance (Ivan McKee) moved amendment S6M-20653.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-20653 in the name of Murdo Fraser (Saving Scottish Hospitality), leave out from "the pressures" to end and insert "that the revaluation process is independent of the Scottish Government; notes the more than £320 million of business support announced in the draft Budget through transitional relief schemes and retail, hospitality and leisure relief over the next three years, and acknowledges the commitment from the Scottish Government to pass on, in full, any Barnett consequential funding from the UK Government's change to non-domestic rates for pubs and music venues in England to businesses in Scotland."

Daniel Johnson moved amendment S6M-20653.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-20653 in the name of Murdo Fraser (Saving Scottish Hospitality), leave out from ", and further" to end and insert "; acknowledges long-standing criticism of a lack of transparency within the non-domestic rates system; recognises that hospitality businesses pay proportionately more in rates as compared to their share of the economy, and calls on the Scottish Government to overhaul the system."

Willie Rennie moved amendment S6M-20653.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-20653 in the name of Murdo Fraser (Saving Scottish Hospitality), leave out from ", and further" to end and insert "; believes that business rates should support growth and employment and that sudden steep rate hikes threaten the survival of successful businesses; notes that the Northern Ireland Executive has paused its business rates revaluation to avoid large rates increases for many in the hospitality sector, and urges the Scottish Government to pause the implementation of Scotland's revaluations, open the appeals process immediately, and provide additional relief to businesses using the extra funding expected following the UK Government's announcement of relief for pubs and music venues."

After debate, amendment S6M-20653.3 was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 58, Against 52, Abstentions 7). As a result, amendments S6M-20653.2 and S6M-20653.1 were pre-empted.

The motion, as amended, was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 59, Against 59, Abstentions 0) – by casting vote).

**3. Opposing the Scottish Government's Proposed Council Tax Rises:** Craig Hoy moved S6M-20654—That the Parliament notes with concern the ongoing consultation on council tax reform; further notes that central government funding has been reduced in real terms in this and previous Scottish Government budgets; acknowledges the cumulative pressure on households from rising council tax, the introduction of additional local charges, fees and levies, and the increasing likelihood of further council tax rises; recognises the damaging impact that funding reductions are having on frontline and statutory local authority services; expresses a lack of confidence that the current consultation will deliver fair or considered reform, given the Scottish Government's record of underfunding local government, and calls on the Scottish Government to withdraw the consultation and rule out proceeding with the proposed council tax reforms, including the plan to conduct a revaluation of every home in Scotland for council tax purposes, at a time when households are already struggling with rising bills.

The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government (Shona Robison) moved amendment S6M-20654.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-20654 in the name of Craig Hoy (Opposing the Scottish Government's Proposed Council Tax Rises), leave out from "with concern" to end and insert "that each local authority sets its own council tax

rates; recognises the importance of building political consensus through the current consultation to deliver fair reform to local government taxation, and welcomes that a 'Mansion Tax' will be brought forward in 2028 that will add two additional council tax bands, to be applied to properties valued at over £1 million."

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 59, Against 51, Abstentions 8).

Michael Marra moved amendment S6M-20654.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-20654 in the name of Craig Hoy (Opposing the Scottish Government's Proposed Council Tax Rises), leave out from first "notes" to end and insert "is concerned for the future of local services, in light of nearly two decades of underfunding of local government by the Scottish National Party administration; regrets the failure of the Scottish Government to build a consensus for much-needed reform of local government taxation, and calls on the next Scottish administration to take leadership and create a sustainable, long-term funding solution for local government."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 23, Against 94, Abstentions 1).

The motion, as amended, was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 59, Against 58, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament notes that each local authority sets its own council tax rates; recognises the importance of building political consensus through the current consultation to deliver fair reform to local government taxation, and welcomes that a 'Mansion Tax' will be brought forward in 2028 that will add two additional council tax bands, to be applied to properties valued at over £1 million.

**4. European Charter of Local Self-Government (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill (Reconsideration):** Mark Ruskell moved S6M-20525—That the Parliament agrees to reconsider the European Charter of Local Self-Government (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**5. Urgent Question:** An urgent question, to ask the Scottish Government whether it will publish the consultation on its proposal to reduce the automatic early release point for certain short-term prisoners from 40% to 30% of their sentence, including details of how and when responses can be submitted, was answered by the Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs (Angela Constance).

**6. Urgent Question:** An urgent question, to ask the Scottish Government what immediate action it will take in light of the concerns raised by the Patient Safety Commissioner at the meeting of the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee on 3

February regarding transparency and risk mitigation in relation to maternity services in Wigtownshire, was answered by the Minister for Public Health and Women's Health (Jenni Minto).

**7. Business Programme:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-20668—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 10 February 2026

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Topical Questions

*followed by* Stage 3 Proceedings: Community Wealth Building (Scotland) Bill

*followed by* Committee Announcements

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

7.00 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Wednesday 11 February 2026

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands; Health and Social Care

*followed by* Scottish Labour Party Business

*followed by* Motion on Legislative Consent: Finance (No. 2) Bill - UK Legislation

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.10 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Thursday 12 February 2026

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

*followed by* Members' Business

2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.30 pm Portfolio Questions: Social Justice and Housing

*followed by* Stage 1 Debate: Budget (Scotland) (No. 5) Bill

*followed by* Motion on Legislative Consent: Medical Training (Prioritisation) Bill - UK Legislation

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 17 February 2026

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Topical Questions

*followed by* Stage 3 Proceedings: Children (Withdrawal from Religious Education and Amendment of UNCRC Compatibility Duty) (Scotland) Bill

*followed by* Committee Announcements

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

6.30 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Wednesday 18 February 2026

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Constitution, External Affairs and Culture, and Parliamentary Business; Justice and Home Affairs

*followed by* Scottish Green Party Business

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.10 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Thursday 19 February 2026

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

*followed by* Members' Business

2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.30 pm Portfolio Questions: Education and Skills

*followed by* Scottish Government Debate: Scottish Income Tax Rate Resolution 2026-27

*followed by* Stage 1 Debate: Visitor Levy (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions*

5.00 pm Decision Time

(b) that, for the purposes of Portfolio Questions in the week beginning 9 February 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.

**8. Stage 1 Timetable:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-20669—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Visitor Levy (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill at stage 1 be completed by 20 February 2026.

The motion was agreed to.

**9. Approval of SI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-20670—That the Parliament agrees that the Scotland Act 1998 (Modification of Schedule 5) Order 2026 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 93, Against 3, Abstentions 17).

**10. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-20671—That the Parliament agrees that the Animal Health (Fixed Penalty Notices) (Scotland) Regulations 2026 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**11. Decision Time:** The Parliament took decisions on items 2, 3, 4, 9, and 10 as noted above.

**12. The Mental Health Impact of Cell Therapies:** The Parliament debated S6M-19950 in the name of Bill Kidd—That the Parliament recognises the significant mental health impact that cell therapies such as stem cell transplant and CAR-T can have on patients and their families, not only in Glasgow Anniesland but across Scotland; notes the recommendations in the June 2025 report by the charity, Antony Nolan, How we can improve the mental health and wellbeing of cell therapy patients, and further notes the view that all those involved in the delivery of cell therapies should commit to working together towards these recommendations to ensure that every patient and family receive the support they deserve.

The meeting closed at 6.58 pm.

**David McGill**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
4 February 2026

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

**Committee Reports**

The following reports were published on 4 February 2026—

Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee, 1st Report, 2026 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee on 3 February 2026 (SP Paper 987)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 14th Report, 2026 (Session 6): Legislative Consent Memorandum: delegated powers exercisable within devolved competence in the Medical Training (Prioritisation) Bill (SP Paper 988)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 15th Report, 2026 (Session 6): Delegated powers in the Community Wealth Building (Scotland) Bill (as amended at Stage 2) (SP Paper 989)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 16th Report, 2026 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 3 February 2026 (SP Paper 990)

**Subordinate Legislation**

**Affirmative Instruments**

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 4 February 2026 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Local Government Finance (Scotland) Order 2026 [draft]  
laid under paragraph 2(3) of schedule 12 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992

The following instrument was withdrawn on 4 February 2026—

Investigation and Commencement of Repair (Scotland) Regulations 2026 [draft]

**Legislative Consent Memorandum**

The following memorandum was lodged on 4 February 2026—

Kate Forbes, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic: Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Public Office (Accountability) Bill (UK Parliament legislation) (LCM-S6-66a)

**Other Documents**

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

**The Local Government Finance (Scotland) Order 2026 – Report by the Scottish Ministers (SG/2026/45)** laid under paragraph 2(3) of schedule 12 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992



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