



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 80, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

**Wednesday 11 February 2026**

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

**1. Portfolio Questions:** Questions on Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands, and then on, Health and Social Care were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.

**2. Safety of the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital:** Jackie Baillie moved S6M-20731—That the Parliament is concerned that the Scottish Government is unable to state clearly that the ventilation and water systems at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital have been validated as meeting required safety requirements; recognises that thousands of patients are treated safely and expertly cared for by NHS staff in the hospital every year; welcomes the establishment of a Safety and Public Confidence Oversight Group, and calls on the Scottish Government to set out by what date it intends to carry out the risk assessment of the hospital's ventilation system, as recommended by the inquiry, what mitigations are currently in place to ensure that the water is safe to use, how it intends to protect at-risk patients in areas that have not been validated, and when this validation will be carried out and the documentation shared with whistleblowers and infection control.

The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care (Neil Gray) moved amendment S6M-20731.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-20731 in the name of Jackie Baillie (Safety of the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital), leave out from "is concerned" to end and insert "agrees that whistleblowers in Scotland's NHS must be protected and supported; notes that NHS Assure was the body created in 2021 to

improve risk management and safety in Scotland's NHS estate; further notes that both Healthcare Improvement Scotland and independent experts have commented on the procedures now in place to ensure the safety of hospital for patients and staff; welcomes the creation of a Safety and Public Confidence Oversight Group, which will look at specific issues, including in relation to the built environment and validation; further welcomes that this group will be co-chaired by Sir Lewis Ritchie to provide additional scrutiny; agrees that Parliament must be kept updated of this group's work, and further agrees that the chair of the independent inquiry must be given the time and space to come to his conclusions without political interference."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 59, Against 63, Abstentions 0).

Sandesh Gulhane moved amendment S6M-20731.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-20731 in the name of Jackie Baillie (Safety of the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital), leave out from "welcomes" to "Group" and insert "expresses concern that the Safety and Public Confidence Oversight Group will be run by NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, in light of the lack of confidence that victims have in the NHS board; calls on the Chief Executive of NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde to therefore stand down as co-chair of the group; urges the Scottish Government to work with the Patient Safety Commissioner to immediately strengthen protections for NHS whistleblowers; condemns the Scottish Government for its failure to tackle a culture of secrecy and denial across the NHS; admonishes the former health secretary, Shona Robison, for breaking her pledge to carry out an independent safety audit prior to the opening of the hospital; requests that Fiona McQueen appear before the Scottish Parliament to account for her reported actions in dismissing the complaints of victims".

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 56, Against 66, Abstentions 0).

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 63, Against 58, Abstentions 0).

**3. Community Policing:** Pauline McNeill moved S6M-20730—That the Parliament regrets that cuts to police officer numbers have disproportionately fallen on local divisions, reducing the number of officers on the frontline; is deeply concerned about reports of rising crime, particularly violent crime; recognises that the proportion of people reporting that they feel safe after dark is at the lowest point on record; considers that failures to modernise the court system and support mental health care have resulted in a poor use of police officer time, which should be focused on reducing crime; believes that there is a need to restore community policing, and calls for the creation of community and crime prevention officers in every council ward in Scotland.

The Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs (Angela Constance) moved amendment S6M-20730.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-20730 in the name of Pauline McNeill (Community Policing), leave out from "regrets" to end and insert "acknowledges that Scotland is a safe country with recorded crime having decreased by 38% since 2006-7 and that homicide is at its lowest level since comparable records began in 1976; recognises that in 2025-26, the Scottish Government increased police funding to a record £1.64 billion, investment which enabled Police Scotland to take on more recruits in the last financial year than at any time since 2013, and that the draft Budget has a further record investment in policing of £1.7 billion in 2026-27; condemns the UK Government's employer national insurance increase, which is costing Police Scotland over £25 million every year; commends the hard work, dedication and commitment of all the officers and staff of Police Scotland; is pleased that police officers in Scotland receive the best basic pay in the UK at the minimum and maximum of each rank, and that there are around 30 full-time equivalent (FTE) officers per 10,000 population, compared with around 24 FTE officers in England and Wales; notes that Police Scotland has an important role to play in addressing community concerns or tensions and there should be no tolerance for hate crime in a modern society; recognises that, whilst the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey shows a long-term increase in the proportion of people who report feeling safe in their local area, perceptions of safety can vary significantly between communities; further recognises that, in September 2025, Parliament agreed the landmark Victims, Witnesses, and Justice Reform Act, which will introduce reforms to place victims and witnesses at the heart of the justice and courts system, establish a Sexual Offences Court, improve the Victim Notification Scheme and parole system, and introduce a Victims Commissioner, and calls on the Scottish Government to continue its focus on reducing crime and reoffending and supporting victims."

Liam Kerr moved amendment S6M-20730.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-20730 in the name of Pauline McNeill (Community Policing), leave out from "for the creation" to end and insert "on the Scottish Government to reduce non-crime demand on Police Scotland and accelerate delivery of a 'Right Care, Right Person' style model."

After debate, the amendment was pre (DT).

After debate, amendment S6M-20730.1 was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 66, Against 55, Abstentions 1). As a result, amendment S6M-20730 was pre-empted.

The motion, as amended, was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 66, Against 54, Abstentions 1).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved that—

That the Parliament acknowledges that Scotland is a safe country with recorded crime having decreased by 38% since 2006-7 and that homicide is at its lowest level since comparable records began in 1976; recognises that in 2025-26, the Scottish

Government increased police funding to a record £1.64 billion, investment which enabled Police Scotland to take on more recruits in the last financial year than at any time since 2013, and that the draft Budget has a further record investment in policing of £1.7 billion in 2026-27; condemns the UK Government's employer national insurance increase, which is costing Police Scotland over £25 million every year; commends the hard work, dedication and commitment of all the officers and staff of Police Scotland; is pleased that police officers in Scotland receive the best basic pay in the UK at the minimum and maximum of each rank, and that there are around 30 full-time equivalent (FTE) officers per 10,000 population, compared with around 24 FTE officers in England and Wales; notes that Police Scotland has an important role to play in addressing community concerns or tensions and there should be no tolerance for hate crime in a modern society; recognises that, whilst the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey shows a long-term increase in the proportion of people who report feeling safe in their local area, perceptions of safety can vary significantly between communities; further recognises that, in September 2025, Parliament agreed the landmark Victims, Witnesses, and Justice Reform Act, which will introduce reforms to place victims and witnesses at the heart of the justice and courts system, establish a Sexual Offences Court, improve the Victim Notification Scheme and parole system, and introduce a Victims Commissioner, and calls on the Scottish Government to continue its focus on reducing crime and reoffending and supporting victims.

**4. Finance (No. 2) Bill – UK Legislation:** The Minister for Public Finance (Ivan McKee) moved S6M-20718—That the Parliament agrees that the relevant provisions of the Finance (No. 2) Bill, introduced in the House of Commons on 2 December 2025, relating to clause 8 (Scottish and Welsh property rates set by Scottish Parliament and Senedd) and schedule 2, part 1 (Scotland), so far as these matters pursue a devolved purpose and alter the executive competence of the Scottish Ministers, should be considered by the UK Parliament.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**5. Business Programme:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-20749—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business--

Tuesday 17 February 2026

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

*followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions*

*followed by Topical Questions*

*followed by Stage 1 Debate: Freedom of Information Reform (Scotland) Bill*

*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

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

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

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Tuesday 24 February 2026

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Topical Questions

*followed by* Stage 3 Proceedings: Scottish Parliament (Recall and Removal of Members) Bill

*followed by* Committee Announcements

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

6.00 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Wednesday 25 February 2026

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Deputy First Minister Responsibilities, Economy and Gaelic; Finance and Local Government

*followed by* Stage 3 Proceedings: Budget (Scotland) (No. 5) Bill

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Thursday 26 February 2026

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

*followed by* Members' Business

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Climate Action and Energy, and Transport

*followed by* Finance and Public Administration Committee Debate: Cost-effectiveness of Scottish Public Inquiries

*followed by* Criminal Justice Committee Debate: Substance Misuse in Prisons Inquiry

*followed by* Scottish Government Debate: Local Government Finance (Scotland) Order 2026

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.30 pm Decision Time

(b) that, for the purposes of Portfolio Questions in the week beginning 16 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.

**6. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-20750—That the Parliament agrees that the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (Licensing of Non-surgical Procedures) Order 2026 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**7. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-20751—That the Parliament agrees that the Criminal Legal Aid and Assistance by Way of Representation (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2026 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**8. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-20752—That the Parliament agrees that the First-tier Tribunal for Scotland Local Taxation Chamber (Rules of Procedure and Composition) (Miscellaneous Amendment) Regulations 2026 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**9. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-20753—That the Parliament agrees that the Food Supplements (Magnesium L-threonate monohydrate) (Scotland) Regulations 2026 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**10. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-20754—That the Parliament agrees that the Legal Aid and Advice and Assistance (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2026 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**11. Referral of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-20755—That the Parliament agrees that the Local Government Finance (Scotland) Order 2026 [draft] be considered by the Parliament.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**12. Designation of Lead Committee:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-20756—That the Parliament agrees that the Finance and Public Administration Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the supplementary legislative consent memorandum on the Public Office (Accountability) Bill.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**13. Committee Meeting Times:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-20757—That the Parliament agrees that, under Rule 12.3.3B of Standing Orders, the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee can meet, if necessary, at the same time

as a meeting of the Parliament between 2.00 pm and 2.50 pm on Wednesday 25 February 2026.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**14. Decision Time:** The Parliament took decisions on items 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 as noted above.

**15. Nature Champions Initiative:** The Parliament debated S6M-20338 in the name of John Mason—That the Parliament notes what it sees as the success of the Nature Champions initiative, established in 2013 and coordinated by Scottish Environment LINK, which encourages all MSPs to champion Scotland's species and habitats; recognises that more than 100 MSPs have become Nature Champions over the current parliamentary session, supported by 25 LINK member organisations, and that the initiative marked its 10th anniversary in 2023 with a public exhibition outside the Parliament, before being awarded the NGO Impact Award by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management in 2024; considers that the Glasgow Shettleston constituency, like the rest of Scotland, benefits from action to protect biodiversity; regrets reports that one in nine species are at risk of national extinction in Scotland; acknowledges that many MSPs will retire or not stand again at the 2026 election, creating a need for new Members in the next parliamentary session to take up the role of a Nature Champion; welcomes that the initiative will be relaunched in the new session to provide that opportunity, ensuring continuity in raising awareness of Scotland's threatened species and habitats, and commends the cross-party and collaborative spirit that it considers has underpinned the initiative throughout its history.

**16. Motion Without Notice:** John Mason moved a motion 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 6.32 pm.

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

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

### **Committee Reports**

The following reports were published on 11 February 2026—

Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee, 3rd Report, 2026 (Session 6): Stage 1 Report on Visitor Levy (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill (SP Paper 1001)

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee, 6th Report, 2026 (Session 6): Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee report on the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme (Amendment) (Extension to Maritime Activities) Order 2026 [draft] (SP Paper 1002)

Finance and Public Administration Committee, 6th Report, 2026 (Session 6): Scottish Fiscal Commission: reappointment of Chair (SP Paper 1004)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 17th Report, 2026 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 10 February 2026 (SP Paper 1005)

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee, 7th Report, 2026 (Session 6): The Medical Training (Prioritisation) Bill LCM (SP Paper 1006)

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee, 8th Report, 2026 (Session 6): The Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Integration Joint Boards) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2025 (SSI 2025/405) (SP Paper 1007)

### **Subordinate Legislation**

### **Affirmative Instruments**

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 11 February 2026 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Scottish Elections (Representation and Reform) Act 2025 (Consequential Provision) Regulations 2026 [draft]

laid under section 72(3) of the Scottish Elections (Representation and Reform) Act 2025

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