



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 82, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 17 February 2026

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Time for Reflection: Rev Ruth Harvey, Leader of the Iona Community, led Time for Reflection.

2. Revision to Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-20746—That the Parliament agrees to the following revisions to the programme of business for—

(a) Tuesday 17 February 2026—

delete

7.45 pm Decision Time

and insert

6.45 pm Decision Time

(b) Thursday 19 February 2026—

after

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

insert

followed by Financial Resolution: Ecocide (Scotland) Bill

followed by Reappointment of the Chair of the Scottish Fiscal Commission

The motion was agreed to.

3. Topical Questions: Questions were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and Ministers.

4. Freedom of Information Reform (Scotland) Bill: Katy Clark moved S6M-20815—That the Parliament agrees to the general principles of the Freedom of Information Reform (Scotland) Bill.

Sue Webber moved amendment S6M-20815.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-20815 in the name of Katy Clark (Freedom of Information Reform (Scotland) Bill), insert at end ", but, in so doing, highlights the time pressure in the current parliamentary session and the views in the stage 1 report, including that Freedom of Information reform should be addressed in the next parliamentary session."

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 85, Against 30, Abstentions 8).

The motion, as amended, was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 63, Against 59, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament agrees to the general principles of the Freedom of Information Reform (Scotland) Bill, but, in so doing, highlights the time pressure in the current parliamentary session and the views in the stage 1 report, including that Freedom of Information reform should be addressed in the next parliamentary session.

5. Stage 3 Timetable: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-20818—That the Parliament agrees that, during stage 3 of the Children (Withdrawal from Religious Education and Amendment of UNCRC Compatibility Duty) (Scotland) Bill, debate on groups of amendments shall, subject to Rule 9.8.4A, be brought to a conclusion by the time limits indicated, those time limits being calculated from when the stage begins and excluding any periods when other business is under consideration or when a meeting of the Parliament is suspended or otherwise not in progress:

Groups 1 to 3: 1 hour 10 minutes

Groups 4 to 6: 2 hours 5 minutes.

The motion was agreed to.

6. Children (Withdrawal from Religious Education and Amendment of UNCRC Compatibility Duty) (Scotland) Bill - Stage 3: The Bill was considered at Stage 3.

The following amendment was agreed to (without division): 5

The following amendments were agreed to (by division)—

- 1 (For 99, Against 0, Abstentions 19)
- 19 (For 89, Against 29, Abstentions 0)
- 7 (For 70, Against 47, Abstentions 0)
- 21 (For 73, Against 44, Abstentions 0)
- 8 (For 89, Against 24, Abstentions 0)
- 9 (For 91, Against 24, Abstentions 0)
- 23 (For 73, Against 45, Abstentions 0)
- 25 (For 115, Against 1, Abstentions 0)
- 13A (For 93, Against 25, Abstentions 0)
- 13, as amended, (For 93, Against 25, Abstentions 0)

The following amendments were disagreed to (by division)—

- 6 (For 14, Against 102, Abstentions 0)
- 2 (For 26, Against 91, Abstentions 0)
- 3 (For 26, Against 72, Abstentions 19)
- 4 (For 25, Against 92, Abstentions 0)
- 16 (For 12, Against 106, Abstentions 0)
- 17 (For 13, Against 103, Abstentions 0)
- 7A (For 12, Against 106, Abstentions 0)
- 11 (For 12, Against 104, Abstentions 0)
- 22A (For 7, Against 109, Abstentions 0)
- 22 (For 11, Against 87, Abstentions 19)
- 12 (For 26, Against 91, Abstentions 0)
- 24 (For 50, Against 68, Abstentions 0)
- 14 (For 33, Against 87, Abstentions 0)
- 15 (For 8, Against 91, Abstentions 0)

The following amendment was not moved: 18

The following amendment was pre-empted: 20

The following amendment was moved then, no member having objected, withdrawn:
10

The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills (Jenny Gilruth) moved a motion without notice under Rule 9.8.5A to move the first time limit by up to 30 minutes. The motion was agreed to.

The Deputy Presiding Officer exercised her power under Rule 9.8.4A(c) to allow the debate on the group to continue beyond the limit in order to avoid the debate being unreasonably curtailed.

The Presiding Officer exercised her power under Rule 9.8.4A(c) to allow the debate on the group to continue beyond the limit in order to avoid the debate being unreasonably curtailed.

7. Children (Withdrawal from Religious Education and Amendment of UNCRC Compatibility Duty) (Scotland) Bill: The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills (Jenny Gilruth) moved S6M-20813—That the Parliament agrees that the Children (Withdrawal from Religious Education and Amendment of UNCRC Compatibility Duty) (Scotland) Bill be passed.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 66, Against 51, Abstentions 7).

8. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 4 and 7 as noted above.

9. Eating Disorders Awareness Week 2026: The Parliament debated S6M-20319 in the name of Elena Whitham—That the Parliament recognises Eating Disorders Awareness Week 2026, which runs from 23 February to 1 March; understands that the theme for the week is "Community", to highlight that, while eating disorders can be isolating for those experiencing them and the people supporting them, there is value in connecting with others who have shared experiences; notes that the eating disorder charity, Beat, estimates that 1.25 million people across the UK, and 100,000 people in Scotland, have an eating disorder; recognises that data suggests that the prevalence of eating disorders has increased since the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020; acknowledges the comprehensive recommendations set out in the 2021 National Review of Eating Disorder Services, and notes the view that, while work is being carried out by organisations such as Beat to increase peer support and training services, further measures are required to address this growing issue.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
17 February 2026

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 13 February 2026—

Criminal Justice Committee, 3rd Report, 2026, (Session 6): Summary of Evidence of the Withdrawn Prevention of Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Bill (SP Paper 1009)

The following reports were published on 17 February 2026—

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee, 5th Report, 2026 (Session 6): Subordinate legislation on the Absent Voting (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Order [draft] and Regulations [draft] 2026 (SP Paper 1010)

Rural Affairs and Islands Committee, 1st Report, 2025 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation: Sea Fish (Prohibition on Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) Order 2026 (SP Paper 1011)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 18th Report, 2025 (Session 6): Third supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum for the Crime and Policing Bill (UK Parliament legislation) (SP Paper 1012)

Subordinate Legislation

Negative Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 13 February 2026 and are subject to the negative procedure—

Sheriff Court Fees Order 2026 (SSI 2026/74)
laid under section 133 of the Courts Reform (Scotland) Act 2014

High Court of Justiciary Fees Order 2026 (SSI 2026/77)
laid under section 133 of the Courts Reform (Scotland) Act 2014

Justice of the Peace Court Fees (Scotland) Order 2026 (SSI 2026/78)
laid under section 133 of the Courts Reform (Scotland) Act 2014

Sheriff Appeal Court Fees Order 2026 (SSI 2026/79)
laid under section 133 of the Courts Reform (Scotland) Act 2014

Court of Session etc. Fees Order 2026 (SSI 2026/80)
laid under section 133 of the Courts Reform (Scotland) Act 2014

Adults with Incapacity (Public Guardian's Fees) (Scotland) Regulations 2026 (SSI 2026/81)
laid under section 86 of the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000

Parole Board (Scotland) Amendment Rules 2026 (SSI 2026/82)
laid under section 45(2) of the Prisoners and Criminal Proceedings (Scotland)
Act 1993

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 17 February 2026 and is
subject to the negative procedure—

Sea Fish (Prohibition on Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) Revocation Order 2026 (SSI
2026/95)
laid under section 20(5) of the Sea Fish (Conservation) Act 1967

Laid Only Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 16 February 2026 and
are not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Education (Scotland) Act 2025 (Commencement No. 3) Regulations 2026 (SSI
2026/83 (C. 4))
laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform
(Scotland) Act 2010

Aggregates Tax and Devolved Taxes Administration (Scotland) Act 2024
(Commencement No. 4) Regulations 2026 (SSI 2026/84 (C. 5))
laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform
(Scotland) Act 2010

Criminal Justice Modernisation and Abusive Domestic Behaviour Reviews (Scotland)
Act 2025 (Commencement No. 1 and Transitional Provision) Regulations 2026 (SSI
2026/85 (C. 6))
laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform
(Scotland) Act 2010

Other Documents

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 17 February 2026 and is
not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Review of pre-release access in Scotland (SG/2026/41) laid under Section 3
(Duty to Commission review), sub section 3(b) of the Pre-Release Access to Official
Statistics (Scotland) Act 2021

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