



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 83, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 18 February 2026

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

**1. Portfolio Questions:** Questions on Constitution, External Affairs and Culture, and Parliamentary Business and then Justice and Home Affairs were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.

**2. Ending US Military Use of Scottish Airports :** Gillian Mackay moved S6M-20819—That the Parliament strongly opposes the actions of the United States (US) under the leadership of Donald Trump; believes that, under Trump's presidency, the US has become a rogue state that has shown contempt for Scottish and international law through its attack on Venezuela and Scottish waters and its threats to the sovereignty of Greenland and Denmark; notes that two people were recently abducted from Scottish waters by the US military, in defiance of the Court of Session and live legal proceedings; understands that the US military currently uses Scottish Government owned Prestwick airport as a de-facto base, with US military flights landing at Prestwick over 560 times since 1 April 2025; agrees that Scotland must not be complicit in any illegal action by allowing the use of publicly owned assets by foreign military, and calls on the Scottish Government to evict US troops operating from Prestwick airport immediately and to instruct all airports owned by the Scottish Government through Highlands and Islands Airports Limited to deny access and use of their facilities to the US military.

The Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture (Angus Robertson) moved amendment S6M-20819.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-20819 in the name of Gillian Mackay (Ending US Military Use of Scottish Airports), leave out from "strongly" to end and insert "supports Scots law, international law and the rules-based order; respects the future of Greenland as a matter for the people of Greenland and Denmark; is unwavering in its solidarity with and support for Ukraine in the face of Russia's illegal invasion; supports international sanctions against the Putin regime and the interdiction of its shadow fleet, and encourages the international community to secure a just peace acceptable to Ukraine."

Murdo Fraser moved amendment S6M-20819.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-20819 in the name of Gillian Mackay (Ending US Military Use of Scottish Airports), leave out from "strongly" to end and insert "reaffirms its clear support for NATO as the cornerstone of collective defence and the foundation of transatlantic security; recognises that NATO has preserved peace among its members for more than 75 years and that the Alliance's nuclear deterrent, including the strategic capability of the United States, has underpinned strategic stability among NATO members and deterred direct conflict between major nuclear powers in Europe for eight decades; recognises the United States as a central and enduring partner in safeguarding European security and acknowledges its leadership in providing the air mobility, logistics, intelligence and deterrence capabilities on which the Alliance relies; notes that military aircraft from NATO allies, including those of the United States, routinely and lawfully use Scottish airports such as Glasgow Prestwick Airport for refuelling and transit; further notes that such activity supports jobs, brings revenue and contributes to the financial sustainability of publicly owned airport infrastructure; rejects calls to withdraw cooperation from the country's closest allies; calls on the Scottish Government to continue facilitating appropriate access for NATO partners to Scottish airport facilities in support of collective defence, national security and the long-term resilience of Scotland's aviation assets, and regrets that the Scottish Green Party has chosen to use parliamentary time to debate these matters instead of raising the many devolved issues that require immediate attention."

Neil Bibby moved amendment S6M-20819.2—

As an amendment to motion S6W-20819 in the name of Gillian Mackay (Ending US Military Use of Scottish Airports), leave out from "strongly" to end and insert "acknowledges that any use by other nations of Scottish infrastructure must be done in accordance with domestic and international law; welcomes the role that both Scotland and Prestwick airport have played in supporting Ukraine against the Russian invasion; recognises the importance of Scotland's strategic assets in supporting international security; affirms its support for the UK's place in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and welcomes the UK Government commitment to increase defence spending to 3% of GDP in an era of global instability."

After debate, amendment S6M-20819.3 was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 89, Against 7, Abstentions 27). As a result, amendments S6M-20819.1 and S5M-20819.2 were pre-empted.

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

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved that—

That the Parliament supports Scots law, international law and the rules-based order; respects the future of Greenland as a matter for the people of Greenland and Denmark; is unwavering in its solidarity with and support for Ukraine in the face of Russia's illegal invasion; supports international sanctions against the Putin regime and the interdiction of its shadow fleet, and encourages the international community to secure a just peace acceptable to Ukraine.

**3. A Just Transition Fund for Mossmorran:** Mark Ruskell moved S6M-20820—That the Parliament agrees that the UK Government and Scottish Government must urgently deliver targeted just transition funding for workers and communities following the early closure of the ExxonMobil Fife Ethylene Plant at Mossmorran.

The Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic (Kate Forbes) moved amendment S6M-20820.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-20820 in the name of Mark Ruskell (A Just Transition Fund for Mossmorran), leave out from "and Scottish Government" to "deliver" and insert "must match the Scottish Government's support by urgently delivering".

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 75, Against 47, Abstentions 1).

Alexander Stewart moved amendment S6M-20820.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-20820 in the name of Mark Ruskell (A Just Transition Fund for Mossmorran), insert at end "; notes that ExxonMobil has blamed the UK Labour administration's windfall tax for accelerating the decline of Mossmorran; expresses disappointment that the left-wing 'Holyrood' consensus, in its opposition to oil and gas, has resulted in tens of thousands of job losses; highlights that the Scottish Green Party previously campaigned for Mossmorran to be closed; calls on the Scottish Government to publish its energy strategy, and further calls on the UK Government to support Rosebank oil and gas field, which could generate billions of pounds' worth of investment and support jobs in the oil and gas supply chain."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 30, Against 92, Abstentions 1).

Daniel Johnson moved amendment S6M-20820.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-20820 in the name of Mark Ruskell (A Just Transition Fund for Mossmorran), insert at end "; welcomes the convening of a joint taskforce between Fife Council, the UK Government and Scottish Government, trade unions, Fife College, Fife businesses and local community

organisations to support the workforce and the wider area, and further welcomes the commitment that workers will be guaranteed interviews at the UK Government-backed Grangemouth cracker; recognises that the taskforce is working on a plan for the site, and considers that this should inform any funding and economic support provided."

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 93, Against 28, Abstentions 1).

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

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved that—

That the Parliament agrees that the UK Government and must match the Scottish Government's support by urgently delivering targeted just transition funding for workers and communities following the early closure of the ExxonMobil Fife Ethylene Plant at Mossmorran; welcomes the convening of a joint taskforce between Fife Council, the UK Government and Scottish Government, trade unions, Fife College, Fife businesses and local community organisations to support the workforce and the wider area, and further welcomes the commitment that workers will be guaranteed interviews at the UK Government-backed Grangemouth cracker; recognises that the taskforce is working on a plan for the site, and considers that this should inform any funding and economic support provided.

**4. Urgent Question:** An urgent question, To ask the Scottish Government whether the Lord Advocate will provide details of the reasons for her reportedly sharing confidential details of the charges against Peter Murrell with the First Minister and whether any further information regarding the case has been made available to ministers or special advisers, was answered by the Lord Advocate (Rt Hon Dorothy Bain KC).

**5. Business Programme:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-20826—

That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of 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 Motion of Condolence

*followed by* Portfolio Questions: Deputy First Minister Responsibilities, Economy and Gaelic; Finance and Local Government

*followed by* Ministerial Statement: Protecting Children from Harm

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

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

6.05 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

Tuesday 3 March 2026

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Topical Questions

*followed by* Stage 3 Proceedings: Contract (Formation and Remedies) (Scotland) Bill

*followed by* Reconsideration Stage Proceedings: European Charter of Local Self-Government (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill

*followed by* Committee Announcements

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Wednesday 4 March 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 Liberal Democrats Business

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.10 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Thursday 5 March 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: Social Justice and Housing

*followed by* Stage 3 Proceedings: Digital Assets (Scotland) Bill

*followed by* Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee Debate: Climate Change Plan

*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 23 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.

Douglas Ross moved amendment 20826.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-20826 in the name of Graeme Dey (Business Programme), after “That the Parliament agrees—” insert—

“(za) the following revision to the programme of business for Thursday 19 February 2026—

delete

2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.30 pm Portfolio Questions: Education and Skills

and insert

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Education and Skills  
*followed by Ministerial Statement: Lord Advocate Private Briefing to the First Minister on the Charges Against Peter Murrell*”.

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to (by division: For 51, Against 71, Abstentions 0).

The motion was agreed to (by division: For 92, Against 31, Abstentions 0).

**6. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-20827—That the Parliament agrees that the Land and Buildings Transaction Tax (Co-ownership Authorised Contractual Schemes) (Scotland) Regulations 2026 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 112, Against 7, Abstentions 1).

**7. Approval of SI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-20828—That the Parliament agrees that the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme (Amendment) Order 2026 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**8. Approval of SI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-20829—That the Parliament agrees that the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme (Amendment) (Extension to Maritime Activities) Order 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-20830—That the Parliament agrees that the Scottish Aggregates Tax (Applicable Rate of Tax) 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-20831—That the Parliament agrees that the Care Leaver Payment (Scotland) Regulations 2026 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**11. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-20832—That the Parliament agrees that the Domestic Abuse (Protection) (Scotland) Act 2021 (Consequential and Supplementary Amendments) Regulations 2026 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**12. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-20833—That the Parliament agrees that the Public Procurement (India Trade Agreement) (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2026 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**13. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-20834—That the Parliament agrees that the Social Security (Residence and Presence Requirements) (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2026 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**14. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-20835—That the Parliament agrees that the Visitor Levy (Local Authority Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2026 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**15. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-20836—That the Parliament agrees that the Visitor Levy (Reviews and Appeals) (Scotland) Regulations 2026 [draft] be approved.

**16. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-20837—That the Parliament agrees that the Visitor Levy (Scotland) Act 2024 Amendment Regulations 2026 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**17. Decision Time:** The Parliament took decisions on items 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 as noted above.

**18. Recognising Concerns Regarding Moray FLOW-Park:** The Parliament debated 20329 in the name of Douglas Ross—That the Parliament acknowledges the concerns being raised by the communities impacted by the proposed Moray FLOW-Park; notes that Offshore Solutions Group plans to develop anchorage sites in the Moray Firth for floating offshore wind assets; understands that the project is at an early stage, but that concerns around the impact on fishing, the environment and marine life have been expressed and acknowledges the view that these deserve to be addressed, and notes the view that Offshore Solutions Group must both be upfront with communities about the consideration other sites were given for these proposals and must commit to detailed and meaningful discussions with key stakeholders and all communities in the Moray Firth area impacted by these proposals.

The meeting closed at 6.45 pm.

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

## **Appendix**

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

### **Committee Reports**

The following reports were published on 18 February 2026—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 19th Report, 2026 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 17 February 2026 (SP Paper 1013)

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee, 7th Report, 2026 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation: Digital Waste Tracking (Scotland) Regulations 2026 (SP Paper 1014)

### **Subordinate Legislation**

#### **Made Affirmative Instruments**

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 18 February 2026 and is subject to the made affirmative procedure—

Scottish Landfill Tax (Standard Rate and Lower Rate) Order 2026 (SSI 2026/97)  
laid under section 41(3) of the Landfill Tax (Scotland) Act 2014

#### **Other Documents**

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 18 February 2026 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**Scottish Public Services Ombudsman: Compendium of Case Reports for February 2026 (SPSO/2026/02)** laid under Sections 15(1) and 15(1A) of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002

**Independent National Whistleblowing Officer: Compendium of Case Reports for February 2026 (INWO/2026/01)** laid under Sections 15(1) and 15(1A) of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002

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