



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 86, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 25 February 2026

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Motion of Condolence: The First Minister (John Swinney) moved S6M-20721—That the Parliament expresses its shock and sadness following the death of Jeane Freeman; appreciates her long contribution to public life and politics, including as the MSP for Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley, Minister for Social Security, where she established Social Security Scotland, and Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport during the COVID-19 pandemic; recognises the high esteem in which she was held by civic society and colleagues in all parties, and offers its deepest sympathy and condolences to her partner, family and many friends.

The motion was agreed to.

2. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Deputy First Minister Responsibilities, Economy and Gaelic and then Finance and Local Government were answered by the Deputy First Minister, a Cabinet Secretary, and Ministers.

3. Ministerial Statement: The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills (Jenny Gilruth) made a statement and answered questions on Protecting Children from Harm.

4. Budget (Scotland) (No. 5) Bill: The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government (Shona Robison) moved S6M-20860—That the Parliament agrees that the Budget (Scotland) (No. 5) Bill be passed.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 66, Against 29, Abstentions 24).

5. Urgent Question: An urgent question, to ask the Scottish Government for what reason the March 2025 memorandum relating to the Peter Murrell case was not referenced by the Lord Advocate during her appearance last week when answering an Urgent Question from Michael Marra MSP regarding her briefing of the First Minister, was answered by the Lord Advocate (Rt Hon Dorothy Bain KC).

6. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-20898—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

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 Appointment of Board Member to Environmental Standards Scotland

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.30 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 10 March 2026

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

10.00 pm Decision Time

Wednesday 11 March 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 Stage 3 Proceedings: Crofting and Scottish Land Court Bill

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

7.30 pm Decision Time

Thursday 12 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: Education and Skills

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Building Safety Levy (Scotland) Bill

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Greyhound Racing (Offences) (Scotland) Bill

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 2 March 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.

Murdo Fraser moved amendment 20898.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-20898 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 26 February 2026—

delete

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.30 pm Decision Time

and insert

followed by Ministerial Statement: Lord Advocate Communications with the First Minister Regarding Court Cases, including on Peter Murrell

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

6.00 pm Decision Time".

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to (by division: For 51, Against 66, Abstentions 1).

The motion was agreed to (by division: For 92, Against 23, Abstentions 0).

7. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-20899—That the Parliament agrees that the Absent Voting (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Order 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-20900—That the Parliament agrees that the Absent Voting (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) 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-20901—That the Parliament agrees that the Digital Waste Tracking (Scotland) Regulations 2026 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

10. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 4, 7, 8, and 9 as noted above.

11. Recognising the Contribution that Football Clubs and their Fans Make to Society: The Parliament debated S6M-20769 in the name of Gillian Mackay—That the Parliament notes that football is one of the most loved and successful sports in the country and that Scotland boasts some of the most loyal supporters anywhere in Europe, but believes that, often, fans feel they are taken for granted or are an afterthought; considers that, across the country, including in the Central Scotland region, supporters groups and community trusts or charitable foundations attached to professional clubs are often enhancing their environment and giving back to those who find themselves in challenging situations, from foodbank collections to mental health initiatives; believes that football fans are often the beating heart of their communities, creating unity in spaces where division can be prevalent; considers that, with rising living costs, varying ticket prices and high transport costs, the current landscape is making it difficult for working-class fans and families to afford to follow their club, an outlet, it believes, that allows hundreds of thousands of people across the country an escapism and a sense of optimism in a time of struggle; recognises that a price cap has been in place in England for over a decade and means that travelling fans do not pay more than £30 for a ticket, yet understands that no such cap exists at present in Scotland; notes the calls for all 42 Scottish Professional Football League (SPFL) clubs, as well as the Scottish Football Association (SFA) to put fans first; further notes the view that the voices of supporters should be heard by decision makers and amplified within the Scottish Parliament, and notes the belief that those running the national game should listen to the calls from the Scottish Supporters Collective and many fans across the country and cap away football ticket prices at £25.

The meeting closed at 7.27 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
25 February 2026

Appendix

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 25 February 2026—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 21st Report, 2026 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 24 February 2026 (SP Paper 1025)

Other Documents

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 25 February 2026 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

What Scotland's finances mean for the next parliament - February 2026 (SFC/2026/3) laid under section 5(3) of the Scottish Fiscal Commission Act 2016

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