



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 87, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 26 February 2026

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

The meeting opened at 11.40 am.

1. General Questions: Questions were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.

2. First Minister's Questions: Questions were answered by the First Minister (John Swinney).

3. Improved Childcare Support for Parents: The Parliament debated S6M-20786 in the name of Roz McCall—That the Parliament believes that providing childcare support to parents not only supports the family unit but also helps to grow Scotland's economy by encouraging more parents back into the workforce; understands that families in Mid Scotland and Fife, and across the country, still struggle to find affordable, flexible and accessible childcare; praises the work of organisations such as Pregnant Then Screwed, which have campaigned to improve childcare provision across the UK; notes that its 2024 State of the Nation Survey concluded that around four in five parents (83.7%) found that childcare costs are the same as or more than their income, and that 71% of mothers and 50% of fathers say that it does not make financial sense for them to work; understands that its 2026 survey is due to conclude, with findings to be published in due course; further understands that the Scottish Government's Early Learning and Childcare expansion programme evaluation strategy has assessed the impact of the expansion of provision covering the period 2018–25, and that it expects to publish its findings in early 2026, and notes the view that the Parliament should have the opportunity to scrutinise this important review before the end of the current parliamentary session.

4. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Climate Action and Energy, and Transport were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.

5. Cost-effectiveness of Scottish Public Inquiries: Kenneth Gibson, on behalf of the Finance and Public Administration Committee, moved S6M-20893—That the Parliament notes the findings and recommendations in the Finance and Public Administration Committee's 14th Report, 2025 (Session 6), Report on the Cost-effectiveness of Scottish Public Inquiries (SP Paper 943).

The motion was agreed (DT).

6. Substance Misuse in Prisons Inquiry: Audrey Nicoll moved S6M-20875—That the Parliament notes the findings and recommendations in the Criminal Justice Committee's 1st Report, 2026 (Session 6), Inquiry into the harm caused by substance misuse in Scottish Prisons (SP Paper 956).

The motion was agreed (DT).

7. Local Government Finance (Scotland) Order 2026: The Minister for Public Finance (Ivan McKee) moved S6M-20733—That the Parliament agrees that the Local Government Finance (Scotland) Order 2026 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 87, Against 0, Abstentions 25).

8. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 5, 6 and 7 as noted above.

The meeting closed at 5.39 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
26 February 2026

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

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 26 February 2026—

Rural Affairs and Islands Committee, 6th Report, 2026 (Session 6):
Subordinate legislation considered by the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee
on 25 February 2026 (SP Paper 1026)

Finance and Public Administration Committee, 7th Report, 2026 (Session 6):
The Budget (Scotland) Act 2025 Amendment Regulations 2026 [draft] (SP
Paper 1027)

Social Justice and Social Security Committee, 3rd Report, 2026 (Session 6):
Subordinate legislation considered by the Social Justice and Social Security
Committee on 19 February 2026 (SP Paper 1028)

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was withdrawn on 26 February 2026—

Antisocial Behaviour (Fixed Penalty Offences) (Miscellaneous Amendment)
(Scotland) Order 2026 [draft]

Legislative Consent Memorandum

The following memorandum was lodged on 26 February 2026—

Angela Constance, Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs:
Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Armed Forces Bill (UK Parliament
legislation) (LCM-S6-73)

Other Documents

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 26 February 2026 and is
not subject to parliamentary procedure—

The Code of Practice for Electoral Observers (ELC/2026/01) laid under Section
6G(4) of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000

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