



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 64, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 6 January 2026

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Time for Reflection: Rev'd David J.M. Coleman, Environmental Chaplain, United Reformed Church, 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-20312— That the Parliament agrees to the following revisions to the programme of business for—

(a) Tuesday 6 January 2026—

after

followed by Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee Debate: Petition PE2018: Recognise the Value of Swimming Pools and Provide Financial Relief to Help Keep Pools Open

insert

followed by Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee Debate: Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee's 9th Report, 2025 (Session 6)

delete

5.00 pm Decision Time

and insert

5.10 pm Decision Time

(b) Thursday 8 January 2026—

after

followed by Financial Resolution: Building Safety Levy (Scotland) Bill

insert

followed by Financial Resolution: Scottish Parliament (Recall and Removal of Members) Bill

The motion was agreed to.

3. Topical Questions: Questions were answered by the First Minister and Cabinet Secretaries.

4. Civil Legal Assistance in Scotland: Karen Adam, on behalf of the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee, moved S6M-20208—That the Parliament notes the findings and recommendations in the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee's 3rd Report, 2025 (Session 6), Report on the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee inquiry into Civil Legal Assistance in Scotland (SP Paper 858).

The motion was agreed to (DT).

5. Ministerial Statement: The Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs (Angela Constance) made a statement and answered questions on Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs.

6. Petition PE2018: Recognise the Value of Swimming Pools and Provide Financial Relief to Help Keep Pools Open: Jackson Carlaw, on behalf of the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee, moved S6M-20185—That the Parliament notes public petition PE2018 on helping to keep swimming pools and leisure centres open by providing financial investment for pools.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

7. Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee's 9th Report, 2025 (Session 6): Martin Whitfield, on behalf of the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee, moved S6M-20269—That the Parliament notes the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee's 9th Report, 2025 (Session 6), Complaint against Ash Regan MSP (SP Paper 945), and agrees to impose the sanction recommended in the report that Ash Regan MSP be excluded from all meetings of the Parliament and its committees for two sitting days, with those sitting days being the next Wednesday and the next Thursday following the agreement of this motion.

Ash Regan moved amendment S6M-20269.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-20269 in the name of Martin Whitfield (Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee's 9th Report, 2025 (Session 6)), leave out from "to impose" to end and insert "that no further action should be taken."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 19, Against 88 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 6).

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 84 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 18, Abstentions 8).

8. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 4, 6 and 7 as noted above.

9. Fuelling the Future: Recognising Anaerobic Digestion's Role in Scotland's Net Zero Transition: The Parliament debated S6M-19318 in the name of Emma Harper—That the Parliament recognises what it sees as the significant contribution of anaerobic digestion (AD) and biogas to Scotland's transition to net zero; welcomes the work of the Anaerobic Digestion and Bioresources Association (ADBA) to research, develop and promote the AD industry across Scotland, including the economically prominent dairy farming sector in the south west of Scotland; notes that AD technology supports the circular economy by converting organic and residue wastes and by-products into renewable energy and non-synthetic nutrient-rich digestate fertiliser; highlights what it sees as the role of biogas in diversifying energy sources and enhancing energy security, including the potential for widening delivery for non-gas grid rural communities; understands that the AD sector provides direct support to farmers and rural communities through sustainable waste management, value for cover and break crops, additional income streams and skilled job creation; believes that further investment and policy support for AD and biogas will play a key role in meeting Scotland's climate targets, boosting the rural economy and reducing reliance on fossil fuels, and notes the calls on the Scottish Government to consider creating a biogas champion position to oversee interdepartmental and cross-portfolio collaboration to ensure the success of the AD sector for the future.

The meeting closed at 6.41 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
6 January 2026

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

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 19 December 2025—

Criminal Justice Committee, 14th Report, 2025 (Session 6): Report on Pre-Budget Scrutiny 2026/27 (SP Paper 944)

Social Justice and Social Security Committee, 11th Report, 2025 (Session 6): Stage 1 report on the Wellbeing and Sustainable Development (Scotland) Bill (SP Paper 946)

The following report was published on 21 December 2025—

Finance and Public Administration Committee, 14th Report, 2025 (Session 6): Report on Cost-effectiveness of Scottish Public Inquiries (SP Paper 943)

The following reports were published on 6 January 2026—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 1st Report, 2026 (Session 6): Instruments considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee during the second quarter of the Parliamentary Year 2025-26 (SP Paper 947)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 2nd Report, 2026 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 6 January 2026 (SP Paper 949)

Subordinate Legislation

Negative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 19 December 2025 and is subject to the negative procedure—

Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Integration Joint Boards) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2025 (SSI 2025/405)
laid under section 69(5) of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2015

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 22 December 2025 and are subject to the negative procedure—

Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023 (Agricultural Products) (Consequential Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/407)
laid under paragraph 7(2) of schedule 5 of the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023

Social Security (Residence in an EEA State or Switzerland) (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/415)
laid under sections 175(1) and (3) of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992 and sections 94(1) and (2) of the Welfare Reform Act 2012

Laid Only Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 22 December 2025 and is not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Housing (Scotland) Act 2025 (Commencement No. 2) Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/408 (C. 34))
laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

Legislative Consent Memorandums

The following memorandum was lodged on 19 December 2025—

Angela Constance, Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs:
Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Crime and Policing Bill (UK Parliament legislation) (LCM-S6-57c)

The following memorandum was lodged on 22 December 2025—

Gillian Martin, Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Energy:
Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Bill (UK Parliament legislation) (LCM-S6-64a)

The following memorandum was lodged on 6 January 2026—

Angela Constance, Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs:
Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Cyber Security and Resilience (Network and Information Systems) Bill (UK Parliament legislation) (LCM-S6-70)

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 19 December 2025 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Gender Representation on Public Boards (Scotland) Act 2018: Scottish Ministers' Report to Parliament 2025 (SG/2025/105) laid under Section 8 of the Gender Representation on Public Boards (Scotland) Act 2018

Highlands and Islands Airports Limited Annual Report and Accounts to 31 March 2025 (SG/2025/240) laid under section 34 of the Civil Aviation Act 1982

Puirt-adhair na Gàidhealtachd is nan Eilean Earranta An Aithisg Bhlìadhna is Cunntasan gu 31 Mart 2025 (SG/2025/241) laid under section 34 of the Civil Aviation Act 1982

Scottish Pubs Code Adjudicator – Statement of Expenditure - FY2024-2025 (SG/2025/57) laid under Section 22 (5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000 and Part 4 of the Tied Pubs (Scotland) Act 2021

**Transport Scotland - Section 70 Grant Payments In accordance with:
Transport (Scotland) Act 2001 Section 70(4) Financial Year 2024-25
(SG/2025/318)** laid under Section 70(4) of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2001

**Water Industry Commission for Scotland Annual Report and Accounts 2024-25
(SG/2025/316)** laid under Section 5(4) of the Water Industry (Scotland) Act 2002
and Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 22 December 2025
and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Food Standards Scotland Annual Report & Accounts 2024/25 (SG/2025/25)
laid under Section 15(5) of the Food (Scotland) Act 2015

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 6 January 2026 and
is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**Aberdeen City Council Low Emission Zone Annual Report 2024/25
(ACC/2026/01)** laid under Section 29 of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019

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