



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 66, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 8 January 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. Non-fatal Strangulation Laws and Intimate Partner Homicides:** The Parliament debated S6M-19504 in the name of Claire Baker—That the Parliament notes the calls for legislation to create a standalone offence of non-fatal strangulation (NFS), in light of new research led by Professors Sonia Oreffice and Climent Quintana-Domeque at the University of Exeter on intimate partner homicides and NFS; understands that this is the first known study to examine the impact of standalone NFS laws on intimate partner homicides across multiple jurisdictions internationally; notes that the study finds that, in US jurisdictions where NFS has been criminalised as a standalone serious offence, intimate partner homicides fell by double-digit percentages, with female-victim homicides declining by around 14% and male-victim homicides by 27%, and estimates that more than 1,500 lives have been saved since the adoption of such laws; expresses concern regarding the view that these reductions could highlight a significant gap in Scots law; understands that criminalising NFS could be considered as a potential approach to reduce the deadliest consequences of intimate partner violence; further understands that NFS often leaves no visible injuries, yet is a strong predictor of future lethal violence, and that, in the absence of a standalone offence, NFS may go unrecorded or be prosecuted only as minor assault due to the absence of visible injuries or a weapon;

notes with alarm the scale and salience of violence against women and girls in Scotland, including in the Mid Scotland and Fife region; considers that standalone NFS laws could disrupt any escalation of violence and coercive control and help prevent lethal outcomes and wider harms, and commends the research team for its ongoing work in this area.

**4. Portfolio Questions:** Questions on Education and Skills were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and Ministers.

**5. Building Safety Levy (Scotland) Bill:** The Minister for Public Finance (Ivan McKee) moved S6M-20285—That the Parliament agrees to the general principles of the Building Safety Levy (Scotland) Bill.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 65 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 54, Abstentions 0).

**6. Building Safety Levy (Scotland) Bill: Financial Resolution:** The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government (Ivan McKee) moved S6M-19533—That the Parliament, for the purposes of any Act of the Scottish Parliament resulting from the Building Safety Levy (Scotland) Bill, agrees to—

- (a) any expenditure of a kind referred to in Rule 9.12.3A of the Parliament's Standing Orders arising in consequence of the Act,
- (b) any tax imposed in consequence of the Act in relation to which Rule 9.12.3B(a) of the Parliament's Standing Orders applies, and
- (c) any charge or payment in relation to which Rule 9.12.4 of the Parliament's Standing Orders applies arising in consequence of the Act.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**7. Scottish Parliament (Recall and Removal of Members) Bill: Financial Resolution:** The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government (Graeme Dey) moved S6M-20291—That the Parliament, for the purposes of any Act of the Scottish Parliament resulting from the Scottish Parliament (Recall and Removal of Members) Bill, agrees to any expenditure of a kind referred to in Rule 9.12.3A of the Parliament's Standing Orders arising in consequence of the Act.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

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

The meeting closed at 5.05 pm.

**David McGill**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
8 January 2026

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

**Subordinate Legislation**

**Affirmative Instruments**

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 8 January 2026 and are subject to the affirmative procedure—

Scottish Aggregates Tax (Applicable Rate of Tax) Regulations 2026 [draft]  
laid under section 61(1) of the Aggregates Tax and Devolved Taxes Administration (Scotland) Act 2024

Visitor Levy (Reviews and Appeals) (Scotland) Regulations 2026 [draft]  
laid under section 45(4), section 71(3) and section 72(4) of the Visitor Levy (Scotland) Act 2024

Visitor Levy (Local Authority Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2026 [draft]  
laid under section 45(4) of the Visitor Levy (Scotland) Act 2024

The following instrument was re-laid before the Parliament on 8 January 2026—

Animal Health (Fixed Penalty Notices) (Scotland) Regulations 2026 [draft]  
laid under section 76A(9) of the Animal Health Act 1981

The following instrument was withdrawn on 8 January 2026—

Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (Licensing of Non-surgical Procedures) Order 2026 [draft]

**Negative Instruments**

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 8 January 2026 and is subject to the negative procedure—

Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration) Amendment Regulations 2026 (SSI 2026/1)  
laid under section 16(4) Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004

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