



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 70, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 20 January 2026

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Time for Reflection: Ian Houston, GlobalScot, writer, and Trustee at the Robert Burns Ellisland Farm and Museum, 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-20495— That the Parliament agrees to the following revisions to the programme of business for—

(a) Tuesday 20 January 2026—

delete

9.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

and insert

9.05 pm Decision Time

(b) Thursday 22 January 2026—

after

5.00 pm Decision Time

insert

followed by Members' Business

The motion was agreed to.

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

4. Stage 3 Timetable: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-20486—That the Parliament agrees that, during stage 3 of the Tertiary Education and Training (Funding and Governance) (Scotland) Bill, debate on groups of amendments shall, subject to Rule 9.8.4A, be brought to a conclusion by the time limits indicated, those time limits being calculated from when the stage begins and excluding any periods when other business is under consideration or when a meeting of the Parliament is suspended or otherwise not in progress:

Groups 1 to 3: 1 hour

Groups 4 to 7: 1 hour 45 minutes

Groups 8 and 9: 3 hours

Groups 10 to 12: 4 hours 10 minutes

Groups 13 to 15: 5 hours 25 minutes

The motion was agreed to.

5. Tertiary Education and Training (Funding and Governance) (Scotland) Bill: The Bill was considered at Stage 3.

The following amendments were agreed to (without division): 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 34, 35, 36, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 59, 60, 61, 94, 96, 62, 63, 100, 104, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 109, 71, 72, 73, 113 and 74.

The following amendments were agreed to (by division)—

97 (For 108 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 8, Abstentions 0)

The following amendments were disagreed to (by division)—

75 (For 48, Against 68 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)

11 (For 48, Against 68 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)

30 (For 45, Against 71 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)

32 (For 45, Against 70, Abstentions 0)

83 (For 47, Against 71 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)

37 (For 46, Against 71 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)

38 (For 47, Against 71 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)

39 (For 46, Against 73 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)

40 (For 47, Against 73 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)

41 (For 47, Against 72 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)
42 (For 46, Against 73 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)
43 (For 28, Against 72 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 18)
44 (For 28, Against 90 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)
86 (For 28, Against 72 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 18)
87 (For 45, Against 72 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)
88 (For 43, Against 73 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)
90 (For 43, Against 72 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)
91 (For 44, Against 71 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)
92 (For 48, Against 68 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)
93 (For 49, Against 68 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)
58 (For 46, Against 72 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)
69 (For 48, Against 69 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)
112 (For 31, Against 70 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 17).

The following amendments were moved and, no member having objected, withdrawn: 1, 2, 89, 94A, 98.

The following amendments were not moved: 3, 76, 77, 78, 79, 4, 80, 81, 82, 84, 85, 5, 95, 99, 101, 102, 103, 105, 106, 107, 108, 110, 111, 6, 7, 8 and 9.

6. Tertiary Education and Training (Funding and Governance) (Scotland)

Bill: The Minister for Higher and Further Education (Ben Macpherson) moved S6M-20484—That the Parliament agrees that the Tertiary Education and Training (Funding and Governance) (Scotland) Bill be passed.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 75 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 46, Abstentions 0).

7. Committee Meeting Times: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-20496—That the Parliament agrees that, under Rule 12.3.3B of Standing Orders, the Economy and Fair Work Committee can meet, if necessary, at the same time as a meeting of the Parliament during Members' Business on Wednesday 21 January 2026.

The motion was agreed to ((DT).

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

The meeting closed at 9.08 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
20 January 2026

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 15 January 2026—

Economy and Fair Work Committee, 1st Report, 2026 (Session 6): Stage 1
Report on the Digital Assets (Scotland) Bill (SP Paper 961)

The following reports were published on 16 January 2026—

Criminal Justice Committee, 1st Report, 2026 (Session 6): Inquiry into the
harm caused by substance misuse in Scottish Prisons (SP Paper 956)

Education, Children and Young People Committee, 2nd Report, 2026
(Session 6): Restraint and Seclusion in Schools (Scotland) Bill - Stage 1
Report (SP Paper 957)

The following reports were published on 19 January 2026—

Finance and Public Administration Committee, 1st Report, 2026 (Session 6):
Report on Subordinate Legislation: Land and Buildings Transaction Tax
(Investment Zones Relief) (Scotland) Order 2026 [draft] (SP Paper 963)

Scottish Commission for Public Audit, 1st Report, 2026 (Session 6): Audit
Scotland Budget Proposal for 2026-27 (SP Paper 964)

The following report was published on 20 January 2026—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 7th Report, 2026 (Session 6):
Delegated Powers in the Visitor Levy (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill at Stage 1
(SP Paper 965)

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 16 January 2026 and is
subject to the affirmative procedure—

Antisocial Behaviour (Fixed Penalty Offences) (Miscellaneous Amendment)
(Scotland) Order 2026 [draft]
laid under section 141(4)(a) of the Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act
2004

The following instrument was re-laid before the Parliament on 16 January 2026—

Conservation of Habitats and Species (Offshore Wind) (Miscellaneous Amendments)
(Scotland) Regulations 2026 [draft]
laid under section 294(4) of the Energy Act 2023

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 20 January 2026 and are subject to the affirmative procedure—

Early Removal of Prisoners from the United Kingdom (Amendment of Specified Time Periods) (Scotland) Order 2026 [draft]
laid under section 9B(6) of the Prisoners and Criminal Proceedings (Scotland) Act 1993

Social Security Up-rating (Scotland) Order 2026 [draft]
laid under sections 150(2), 150A(2) and 190(1)(a) of the Social Security Administration Act 1992

Negative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 16 January 2026 and is subject to the negative procedure—

Sea Fish (Prohibition on Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) Order 2026 (SSI 2026/10)
laid under section 20(5) of the Sea Fish (Conservation) Act 1967

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 19 January 2026 and is subject to the negative procedure—

Seed (Fees) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2026 (SSI 2026/13)
laid under section 16 of the Plants Varieties and Seeds Act 1964

Laid Only Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 16 January 2026 and is not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Act of Adjournal (Criminal Procedure Rules 1996 Amendment) (Miscellaneous) 2026 (SSI 2026/11)
laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 19 January 2026 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Scrutiny report on draft Regulations: the Social Security (Up-rating) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2026 (SCoSS/2026/01)
laid under sections 22 and 97 of the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018

Young Start Annual Report 2025 (SG/2026/14) laid under Schedule 3, Part 3, Paragraph 9 of the Dormant Bank and Building Society Accounts Act 2008

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 20 January 2026 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Statement Under Section 2(8) and 2(9) of the Forensic Medical Services (Victims Of Sexual Offences) (Scotland) Act 2021 (SG/2026/3) laid under Section 2(8) of the Forensic Medical Services (Victims of Sexual Offences) (Scotland) Act 2021

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