



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 72, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 22 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 the Deputy First Minister, Cabinet Secretaries and a Minister.

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

3. Growing2Gether Programme Success: The Parliament debated S6M-18469 in the name of Emma Roddick— That the Parliament congratulates the charity, Growing2Gether, on what it sees as its successful programme aimed at helping young people who face various challenges by pairing young adults with toddlers to mentor; understands that participants and facilitators have reported a significant shift in young people's confidence and gaining of skills, helping to improve wellbeing; acknowledges the reported overall positive and successful work of this charity in partnering with 15 schools in Scotland, including 12 in the Highlands and Islands region; applauds the over 2,000 young people who have been paired with 2,200 toddlers over a seven-year period across the Highlands on their efforts; considers it important to provide opportunities for children and young people who face challenges with poverty, mental health or trauma to develop skills and confidence in themselves, and notes the view that the Scottish Government should consider how it can best support this kind of work moving forward.

4. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Social Justice and Housing were answered by Cabinet Secretaries.

5. Wellbeing and Sustainable Development (Scotland) Bill: Sarah Boyack moved S6M-20414—That the Parliament agrees to the general principles of the Wellbeing and Sustainable Development (Scotland) Bill.

The motion was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 25, Against 91 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0).

6. Digital Assets (Scotland) Bill: The Minister for Business and Employment (Richard Lochhead) moved S6M-20485—That the Parliament agrees to the general principles of the Digital Assets (Scotland) Bill.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

7. Motion Without Notice: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved a motion without notice that, under Rule 11.2.4, Decision Time be brought forward to 4.53 pm.

The motion was agreed to.

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

9. Future Farming Investment Scheme: The Parliament debated S6M-20387 in the name of Liam McArthur— That the Parliament acknowledges that the Future Farming Investment Scheme sought to provide farmers and crofters with funding to help them buy new machinery, improve efficiency or reduce emissions, and was targeted towards islanders, new entrants, young farmers and tenant farmers; understands that Orkney businesses initially received only 3.48% of total funding, and Shetland 1.88%; notes with concern reports that fewer than one in 10 small farms and crofters across Scotland received funding, with many small farms from the Highlands and Islands to Aberdeenshire, Argyll and Bute and the south of Scotland also missing out; believes that much of the communication around this scheme has caused confusion, and indeed anger, among those in the agricultural sector; expresses deep regret that, while demand for the scheme was high, so few small, island and young farmers were successful, despite seemingly being from priority groups, and notes the calls on the Scottish Government to provide further clarity on how the funding for the scheme was allocated, as well as to publish its review on the Future Farming Investment Scheme, as committed by the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands on 10 December 2025.

The meeting closed at 5.39 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
22 January 2026

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

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 22 January 2026—

Rural Affairs and Islands Committee, 2nd Report, 2026, (Session 6): Stage 1 report on the Greyhound Racing (Offences) (Scotland) Bill (SP Paper 966)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 8th Report, 2026 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 20 January 2026 (SP Paper 971)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 9th Report, 2026 (Session 6): Delegated powers in the Budget (Scotland) (No.5) Bill at Stage 1 (SP Paper 972)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 10th Report, 2026 (Session 6): Legislative Consent Memorandum: delegated powers exercisable within devolved competence in the Finance (No. 2) Bill (SP Paper 973)

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 22 January 2026 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Budget (Scotland) Act 2025 Amendment Regulations 2026 [draft]
laid under section 7(2) of the Budget (Scotland) Act 2025

Negative Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 22 January 2026 and are subject to the negative procedure—

Revenue Scotland and Tax Powers Act (Interest on Unpaid Tax and Interest Rates in General) Amendment Regulations 2026 (SSI 2016/17)
laid under section 254(1) of the Revenue Scotland and Tax Powers Act 2014

Revenue Scotland and Tax Powers Act (Involved Third Party) Amendment Order 2026 (SSI 2016/18)
laid under section 254(1) of the Revenue Scotland and Tax Powers Act 2014

Legislative Consent Memorandum

The following memorandum was lodged on 21 January 2026—

Neil Gray, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care: Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Medical Training (Prioritisation) Bill (UK Parliament legislation) (LCM-S6-72)

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 22 January 2026 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Scotland's Budget Documents: The 2025-26 Spring Budget Revision to the Budget (Scotland) Act for the year ending 31 March 2026 (SG/2026/26) laid at the request of a member of the Scottish Government and not under any laying power

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