



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 74, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 28 January 2026

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Revision to Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-20599— That the Parliament agrees to the following revisions to the programme of business for Wednesday 28 January 2026—

after

followed by Scottish Labour Party Debate: The Role of Political Decision Making in NHS Scandals

insert

followed by First Minister's Statement: Update on the MV Bella-1

delete

9.30 pm Decision Time

and insert

10.00 pm Decision Time

The motion was agreed to by division (For 78, Against 25, Abstain 0).

2. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Constitution, External Affairs and Culture, and Parliamentary Business, and the on, Justice and Home Affairs were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.

3. The Role of Political Decision Making in NHS Scandals: Anas Sarwar moved S6M-20561—That the Parliament condemns the culture of secrecy and cover-up that has hidden the truth from patients, families and campaigners and denied them justice in many NHS scandals in Scotland in recent years; recognises that, as the Scottish Hospitals Inquiry draws to a close, many serious questions remain regarding the decision-making process and the role of the Scottish Government; considers that political decision making should be considered by the inquiry, and calls for the Scottish Ministers to authorise the immediate full disclosure and preservation of all communications connected to the contaminated water and inadequate ventilation system and the premature opening of the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, as well as any subsequent communications relating to the handling of the infection and its cover-up.

The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care (Neil Gray) moved amendment S6M-20561.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-20561 in the name of Anas Sarwar (The Role of Political Decision Making in NHS Scandals), leave out from "condemns" to end and insert "pays tribute to the brave patients, families and whistleblowers who have campaigned tirelessly for justice in the Scottish Hospitals Inquiry; recognises the pain, trauma and grief faced by patients and their families at the heart of this inquiry, and notes that the inquiry was established in 2019 to ensure that every individual impacted is able to get the truth that they deserve; notes the fundamental importance of the independence of inquiries, which are enshrined in legislation, under the control of an independent chair, and which operate transparently, reaching conclusions that are not to be influenced by ministers or other vested interests, and agrees, therefore, that the independent Scottish Hospitals Inquiry Chair must be given the time and space to consider all the available evidence."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 58, Against 61, Abstentions 0).

Brian Whittle moved amendment S6M-20561.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-20561 in the name of Anas Sarwar (The Role of Political Decision Making in NHS Scandals), insert at end "; notes with concern the impact on patients, staff and others resulting from the ongoing questions about the safety of the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital; calls on the Scottish Government to provide clear and explicit guarantees to the public that any issues raised by patients, families and whistleblowers are listened to and fully investigated; believes that the repeated lack of candour by both NHS boards and the Scottish Government in respect of the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital and other scandals is unacceptable; further believes that this lack of openness has placed a greater burden on patients, families and NHS staff and contributed to a growing loss of public trust, and calls, therefore, on Nicola Sturgeon to request to make a personal statement, with questions and answers, to the Scottish Parliament, given her role as Cabinet Secretary for Health and First Minister during the construction and opening of the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 55, Against 65, Abstentions 0).

Gillian Mackay moved amendment S6M-20561.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-20561 in the name of Anas Sarwar (The Role of Political Decision Making in NHS Scandals), insert at end "; acknowledges that recent revelations surrounding the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital will have been distressing for patients, their families and staff; understands that this could create uncertainty and fear regarding the safety of Scotland's hospitals and negatively impact staff morale; recognises that patient privacy has to be given the greatest consideration in the publication of any materials, and calls for the Scottish Government to outline how it will urgently restore confidence into the services delivered by NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde."

After debate, the amendment was agreed to (DT).

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 64, Against 56, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament condemns the culture of secrecy and cover-up that has hidden the truth from patients, families and campaigners and denied them justice in many NHS scandals in Scotland in recent years; recognises that, as the Scottish Hospitals Inquiry draws to a close, many serious questions remain regarding the decision-making process and the role of the Scottish Government; considers that political decision making should be considered by the inquiry; calls for the Scottish Ministers to authorise the immediate full disclosure and preservation of all communications connected to the contaminated water and inadequate ventilation system and the premature opening of the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, as well as any subsequent communications relating to the handling of the infection and its cover-up; acknowledges that recent revelations surrounding the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital will have been distressing for patients, their families and staff; understands that this could create uncertainty and fear regarding the safety of Scotland's hospitals and negatively impact staff morale; recognises that patient privacy has to be given the greatest consideration in the publication of any materials, and calls for the Scottish Government to outline how it will urgently restore confidence into the services delivered by NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

4. First Minister Statement: The First Minister (John Swinney) made a statement and answered questions on Update on the MV Bella-1.

5. Sustainable Aviation Fuel Bill - UK Legislation: The Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity (Jim Fairlie) moved S6M-20550—That the Parliament agrees that the relevant provisions of the Sustainable Aviation Fuel Bill, introduced in the House of Commons on 14 May 2025, and subsequently amended, relating to clauses 1 to 5, 10, 11(2) to 11(5), 12 to 20 and the schedule, so far as these matters fall within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament and alter the executive competence of the Scottish Ministers, should be considered by the UK Parliament.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

6. Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill - Stage 3: The Parliament continued its consideration of the Bill at Stage 3.

The following amendments were agreed to (without division): 62, 35, 37, 38, 39, 42, 44 and 45.

The following amendments were agreed to (by division)—

60 (For 81, Against 26, Abstentions 0)
153 (For 89, Against 16, Abstentions 0)
165 (For 99, Against 8, Abstentions 0)
179 (For 81, Against 25, Abstentions 0)
180 (For 81, Against 25, Abstentions 0)
182 (For 82, Against 26, Abstentions 0)
36 (For 81, Against 26, Abstentions 0)
186 (For 81, Against 26, Abstentions 0)
40 (For 83, Against 24, Abstentions 0)
41 (For 83, Against 23, Abstentions 0)
43 (For 103, Against 7, Abstentions 0)

The following amendments were disagreed to (by division)—

60A (For 26, Against 82, Abstentions 0)
148 (For 24, Against 82, Abstentions 0)
149 (For 25, Against 82, Abstentions 0)
150 (For 25, Against 82, Abstentions 0)
151 (For 24, Against 82, Abstentions 0)
152 (For 39, Against 66, Abstentions 0)
154 (For 43, Against 64, Abstentions 0)
155 (For 28, Against 78, Abstentions 0)
156 (For 42, Against 65, Abstentions 0)
157 (For 44, Against 64, Abstentions 0)
61 (For 19, Against 81, Abstentions 7)
160 (For 46, Against 62, Abstentions 0)
166 (For 23, Against 83, Abstentions 0)
167 (For 41, Against 64, Abstentions 0)
168 (For 43, Against 63, Abstentions 0)
169 (For 41, Against 64, Abstentions 0)
171 (For 45, Against 60, Abstentions 0)
172 (For 24, Against 83, Abstentions 0)
173 (For 23, Against 82, Abstentions 0)
174 (For 24, Against 80, Abstentions 0)
175 (For 24, Against 82, Abstentions 0)
176 (For 25, Against 81, Abstentions 0)
177 (For 43, Against 63, Abstentions 0)
178 (For 25, Against 81, Abstentions 0)
183 (For 25, Against 82, Abstentions 0)
184 (For 25, Against 83, Abstentions 0)
185 (For 24, Against 83, Abstentions 0)
161 (For 26, Against 84, Abstentions 0)
162 (For 26, Against 82, Abstentions 0)
163 (For 26, Against 83, Abstentions 0)
187 (For 32, Against 78, Abstentions 0)

188 (For 25, Against 84, Abstentions 0)
189 (For 26, Against 84, Abstentions 0)
190 (For 25, Against 86, Abstentions 0)
191 (For 26, Against 86, Abstentions 0)
192 (For 25, Against 86, Abstentions 0)
193 (For 26, Against 86, Abstentions 0)
194 (For 26, Against 86, Abstentions 0).

The following amendments were not moved: 158, 159, 164, 170, 181, 195 and 196.

The Deputy Presiding Officer exercised his power under Rule 9.8.4A(c) to allow the debate on the group to continue beyond the limit in order to avoid the debate being unreasonably curtailed.

The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey) moved a motion without notice under Rule 9.8.5A to move the fifth time limit by up to 30 minutes. The motion was agreed to.

The Deputy Presiding Officer exercised his power under Rule 9.8.4A(c) to allow the debate on the group to continue beyond the limit in order to avoid the debate being unreasonably curtailed.

The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey) moved a motion without notice under Rule 9.8.5A that for the purpose of this item of today's business, the last sentence of Rule 9.8.5A be suspended. The motion was agreed to.

The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey) moved a motion without notice under Rule 9.8.5A to move the sixth time limit by up to 30 minutes. The motion was agreed to.

7. Business Programme: Motion S6M-20569 in the name of the Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, was withdrawn and as a consequence amendment S6M-20569.1 in the name of Ash Regan fell.

8. Stage 1 Timetable: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-20570—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Desecration of War Memorials (Scotland) Bill at stage 1 be completed by 6 February 2026.

The motion was agreed to.

9. Stage 2 Timetable: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-20571—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Children (Care, Care Experience and Services Planning) (Scotland) Bill at stage 2 be completed by 20 February 2026.

The motion was agreed to.

10. Stage 2 Timetable: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-20572—That the

Parliament agrees that consideration of the Contract (Formation and Remedies) (Scotland) Bill at stage 2 be completed by 6 February 2026.

The motion was agreed to.

11. Stage 2 Timetable: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-20573—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Crofting and Scottish Land Court Bill at stage 2 be completed by 20 February 2026.

The motion was agreed to.

12. Stage 2 Timetable: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-20574—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Building Safety Levy (Scotland) Bill at stage 2 be completed by 20 February 2026.

The motion was agreed to.

13. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-20575—That the Parliament agrees that the Land and Buildings Transaction Tax (Investment Zones Relief) (Scotland) Order 2026 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 110, Against 8, Abstentions 0).

14. Suspension of Standing Orders: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-20576—That the Parliament agrees that, for the purposes of consideration of the supplementary legislative consent memorandum on the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill, Rules 9B.3.5 and 9B.3.6 of Standing Orders are suspended.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

15. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 3, 5, 13 and 14 as noted above.

The meeting closed at 10.10 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
28 January 2026

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 28 January 2026—

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee, 4th Report, 2026 (Session 6): Standing Order Rule changes - Related to Gender Sensitive Audit recommendations on Parliamentary Bureau Membership, Election of Presiding Officer/Deputy Presiding Officers and SPCB Membership (SP Paper 978)

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 28 January 2026 and are subject to the affirmative procedure—

Renewables Obligation (Scotland) Amendment Order 2026 [draft]
laid under section 32L(3) of the Electricity Act 1989

Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021 (Characteristic of Sex) (Amendment and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2026 [draft]
laid under section 12(4)(c) of the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021

Council Tax (Variation for Unoccupied Dwellings) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2026 [draft]
laid under section 33(6) of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003

Social Security (Up-rating) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2026 [draft]
laid under section 96(2) of the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018

Legal Aid and Advice and Assistance (Fees) (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2026 [draft]
laid under section 37(2) of the Legal Aid (Scotland) Act 1986

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 28 January 2026 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Social Security Assistance in Scotland - Up-rating for Inflation in 2026-27 (SG/2026/39) laid under section 86A(1)(c) of the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018

The Scottish Ministers response to the report by the Scottish Commission on Social Security on the draft Social Security (Up-rating) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2026 (SG/2026/40) laid under section 97(9)(a) of the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018

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