



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 75, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 29 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. Holocaust Memorial Day 2026, Bridging Generations: The Parliament debated S6M-20318 in the name of Kenneth Gibson—That the Parliament recognises that 27 January is Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD); acknowledges that the Holocaust was the brutal and barbaric murder of six million Jewish men, women and children by Germany's Nazi regime, and its collaborators, during the Second World War; understands that the date of HMD is the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi concentration and extermination camp, where 1.1 million people were murdered, 90% of them Jewish; notes that the official theme for HMD 2026 is "Bridging Generations", as a reminder that the collective responsibility of all to remember does not end with the survivors, it lives on through their children, grandchildren and all people; recognises that this encourages all to engage actively with the past, and to listen, learn and carry those lessons forward to build a bridge between memory and action, and between history and hope for the future; is aware that the Holocaust is a shockingly dark chapter in human history, and considers that HMD is a crucially important event in the calendar, which aims to highlight the reason why its lessons can never be forgotten and why a zero tolerance approach must always be taken against antisemitism and all forms of prejudice.

4. Revision to Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-20610—That the Parliament agrees to the following revisions to the programme of business for Thursday 29 January 2026—

after

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Common Organisation of the Markets in Agricultural Products (Fruit and Vegetables) (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2026 [draft]

insert

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill

delete

5.25 pm Decision Time

and insert

6.25 pm Decision Time

The motion was agreed to.

5. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Education and Skills were answered by a Cabinet Secretary.

6. Restraint and Seclusion in Schools (Scotland) Bill: Daniel Johnson moved S6M-20519—That the Parliament agrees to the general principles of the Restraint and Seclusion in Schools (Scotland) Bill.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

7. Greyhound Racing (Offences) (Scotland) Bill: Mark Ruskell moved S6M-20527—That the Parliament agrees to the general principles of the Greyhound Racing (Offences) (Scotland) Bill.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 69, Against 27, Abstentions 19).

8. Common Organisation of the Markets in Agricultural Products (Fruit and Vegetables) (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2026 [draft]: The Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity (Jim Fairlie) moved S6M-20579—That the Parliament agrees that the Common Organisation of the Markets in Agricultural Products (Fruit and Vegetables) (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2026 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

9. Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill: The Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Energy (Gillian Martin) moved S6M-20549—That the Parliament agrees that the Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill be passed.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 90, Against 26, Abstentions 0).

10. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-20611—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 3 February 2026

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Prostitution (Offences and Support) (Scotland) Bill

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Desecration of War Memorials (Scotland) Bill

followed by Motion on Legislative Consent: Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill – UK Legislation

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.55 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 4 February 2026

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Deputy First Minister Responsibilities, Economy and Gaelic; Finance and Local Government

followed by Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party Business

followed by Motion on Reconsideration of a Bill: European Charter of Local Self-Government (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.40 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 5 February 2026

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

followed by Members' Business

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Climate Action and Energy, and Transport

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Ecocide (Scotland) Bill

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Non-surgical Procedures and Functions of Medical Reviewers (Scotland) Bill

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 10 February 2026

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Community Wealth Building (Scotland) Bill

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

7.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 11 February 2026

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands; Health and Social Care

followed by Scottish Labour Party Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.10 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 12 February 2026

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

followed by Members' Business

2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.30 pm Portfolio Questions: Social Justice and Housing

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Budget (Scotland) (No. 5) Bill

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

(b) that, for the purposes of Portfolio Questions in the week beginning 2 February 2026, in rule 13.7.3, after the word "except" the words "to the extent to which the Presiding Officer considers that the questions are on the same or similar subject matter or" are inserted.

Ash Regan moved amendment S6M-20611.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-20611 in the name of Graeme Dey (Business Programme), leave out from "*followed by* Stage 1 Debate: Prostitution (Offences and Support) (Scotland) Bill" to "5.55 pm Decision Time" and insert—

“followed by Stage 1 Debate: Desecration of War Memorials (Scotland) Bill
followed by Stage 1 Debate: Prostitution (Offences and Support) (Scotland) Bill
followed by Motion on Legislative Consent: Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill – UK Legislation
followed by Committee Announcements
followed by Business Motions
followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions
6.30 pm Decision Time.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to (by division: For 28, Against 83, Abstentions 1).

The motion was agreed to.

11. 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 6:17 pm.

The motion was agreed to.

12. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 6, 7, 8, and 9 as noted above.

13. Building Links with Bhutan: The Parliament debated S6M-19514 in the name of Michelle Thomson—That the Parliament welcomes the financial and administrative support from the Tam O'Shanter Trust for the recent parliamentary visit to Bhutan, and thanks Bhutan Homestay and the Loden Foundation for the additional in-country support, including arranging insightful meetings with entrepreneurs, parliamentarians and others; notes that Bhutan has a population approaching 800,000 and is set amidst the Himalayas, bordered by India and Tibet, and that its culture and governance are very different from Scotland; acknowledges its vibrant Buddhist heritage and magnificent cultural assets, including its numerous fortresses and temples, the best known of which is The Paro Taktsang, also known as the Tiger's Nest, which is a legendary monastery that hangs precariously on the edge of a 3,120m-tall cliff; appreciates that Bhutan is notable for its use of a national happiness index to assess progress and is ranked as one of the top 20 least corrupt countries in the world; understands that its political and institutional development is less mature and very different from Scotland's, but that there are areas where a sharing of innovative practice may prove mutually beneficial, such as on climate change, population retention, entrepreneurship, and education and skills; commends the work undertaken by the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh to document and conserve Bhutan's rich plant diversity; notes the view that there are opportunities to further develop relationships with Bhutan and that active consideration should be given to forming a Cross Party Group on Bhutan, with members from both Scotland and Bhutan, and including academic and cultural communities; further notes the view that there could be a useful focus on developing cultural links to enjoy and

appreciate the countries' different cultural assets, and notes the invitation for the Loden Foundation to work with friends in Scotland, including those in the Falkirk East constituency.

The meeting closed at 6:49 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
29 January 2026

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

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 29 January 2026—

Finance and Public Administration Committee, 2nd Report 2026 (Session 6): Report on the Legislative Consent Memorandum for the Finance (No.2) Bill (UK Parliament legislation) (SP Paper 981)

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee, 3rd Report, 2026 (Session 6): Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (Licensing of Non-surgical Procedures) Order 2026 [draft] (SP Paper 982)

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 29 January 2026 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Private Housing Rent Control (Exempt Property) (Scotland) Regulations 2026 [draft] laid under section 77(3) of the Private Housing (Tenancies) (Scotland) Act 2016

The following instrument was re-laid before the Parliament on 29 January 2026—

National Bus Travel Concession Schemes (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Order 2026 [draft] laid under section 52(3) of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2005

Negative Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 29 January 2026 and are subject to the negative procedure—

Upper Tribunal for Scotland (Procedure Rules) (Miscellaneous Amendment) Regulations 2026 (SSI 2026/33) laid under Paragraph 5(2) of schedule 9 of the Tribunals (S) Act 2014

First-tier Tribunal for Scotland (Procedure Rules) (Miscellaneous Amendment) Regulations 2026 (SSI 2026/34) laid under Paragraph 5(2) of schedule 9 of the Tribunals (S) Act 2014

Mental Health Tribunal for Scotland (Practice and Procedure) (No. 2) Amendment Rules 2026 (SSI 2026/35) laid under section 326(3) of the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (S) Act 2003 and section 44(2) and (3) of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024

Other Documents

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 29 January 2026 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2029: Parliamentary progress report 1
April 2022 to 31 March 2025 (SG/2026/38)** laid under Section 7 of the Forestry and Land Management (Scotland) Act 2018

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