



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 90, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 5 March 2026

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

The meeting opened at 11.40 am.

1. General Questions: Questions were answered by Deputy First Minister, Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.

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

3. Recognising Lived Experience and Strengthening Disabled People's Representation in Scottish Democracy: The Parliament debated S6M-20598 in the name of Jeremy Balfour—That the Parliament recognises the value of lived experience in informing effective scrutiny and legislation and ensuring that those views are embedded across legislation passed at the Scottish Parliament; commends events such as the Parliament Disability Summit, first held in 2023, which highlighted disability issues and allowed disabled people across Scotland, including in the Lothian region, to be at the forefront of political discussion; welcomes that the Summit will be held again on 21 February 2026 and notes the view that this Summit should continue on a biannual basis; notes with concern reports that disabled people remain significantly underrepresented in elected office in Scotland, with 5% of the current MSPs declaring a disability compared with 24% of the general population; understands that people from other protected groups also continue to face underrepresentation; acknowledges what it sees as the many barriers that exist in society which discourage or prevent disabled people and others with protected characteristics from standing for election; welcomes initiatives such as the Access to Elected Office Fund run by Inclusion Scotland, which, it understands, helped 14 disabled candidates in the 2021 Scottish Parliament election through assistance with

transport, communication and/or personal assistance, and notes the calls on all political parties, the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body and the Scottish Government to continue to work collaboratively to remove barriers, promote inclusion and strengthen disabled people's representation and participation in Scotland's political institutions, while also taking steps to improve representation and participation for all groups protected under the Equality Act 2010.

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

5. Digital Assets (Scotland) Bill– Stage 3: The Bill was considered at Stage 3.

The following amendments were agreed to (without division): 1, 2, 3 and 4.

6. Digital Assets (Scotland) Bill: The Minister for Business and Employment (Richard Lochhead) moved S6M-20944—That the Parliament agrees that the Digital Assets (Scotland) Bill be passed.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 114, Against 0, Abstentions 0).

7. Draft Climate Change Plan: Edward Mountain, on behalf of the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee, moved S6M-20964—That the Parliament notes the findings and recommendations in the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee's 10th Report, 2026 (Session 6), Report on the Draft Climate Change Plan (SP Paper 1031), and the reports and letters from other committees, as referenced in the report.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

8. Appointment of Board Member to Environmental Standards Scotland: The Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Energy (Gillian Martin) moved S6M-20981—That the Parliament notes the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee's consideration of the appointment to Environmental Standards Scotland at its meeting on 17 February 2026; welcomes the Committee's recommendation that the Parliament approves the appointment of Laura Young as a board member, in accordance with the provisions of the UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Continuity) (Scotland) Act 2021, and approves the appointment as required by schedule 1, paragraph 2(2) of the Act.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

9. Freedom of Information Reform (Scotland) Bill: Financial Resolution: The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government (Shona Robison) moved S6M-20935—That the Parliament, for the purposes of any Act of the Scottish Parliament resulting from the Freedom of Information Reform (Scotland) 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).

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

The meeting closed at 5.36 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
5 March 2026

Appendix

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

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 5 March 2026—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 25th Report, 2025 (Session 6): Legislative Consent Memorandum and Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum for the Railways Bill (UK Parliament legislation) (SP Paper 1045)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 26th Report, 2025 (Session 6): Delegated powers in the Greyhound Racing (Offences) (Scotland) Bill (as amended at Stage 2) (SP Paper 1046)

Subordinate Legislation

Laid Only Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 5 March 2026 and are not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2025 (Commencement No. 1) Regulations 2026 (SSI 2026/119 (C. 11))

laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

Victims, Witnesses, and Justice Reform (Scotland) Act 2025 (Commencement No. 2 and Saving Provisions) Regulations 2026 (SSI 2026/120 (C. 12))

laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

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