



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 93, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 12 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 Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.
- 2. First Minister's Questions:** Questions were answered by the First Minister (John Swinney).
- 3. Edinburgh Medical School 300:** The Parliament debated S6M-20683 in the name of Martin Whitfield— That the Parliament recognises that, in 2026, medicine will have been formally taught at the University of Edinburgh for 300 years; notes that, while there remain challenges for the NHS and higher education, reflecting on 300 years of history provides an opportunity to provide honesty on the past, and consider opportunities for the future of medical education and research; congratulates the organisers, who have curated a rich and diverse programme of events to explore the 300 years, including lectures, alumni reunions and public events; understands the value that the Edinburgh Medical School has contributed to the economy and health of Scotland, and the world, including what it sees as its crucial place in life sciences research, health innovation and policy, and wishes all staff and students the best for 2026.
- 4. Portfolio Questions:** Questions on Education and Skills were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and Ministers.

5. Ministerial Statement: The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice (Shirley-Anne Somerville) made a statement and answered questions on Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan.

6. Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill – Stage 3: The Parliament continued its consideration of the Bill at Stage 3.

The following amendments were agreed to (without division): 40, 206, 97, 215, 216, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 48, 241 and 49.

The following amendments were agreed to (by division)—

94 (For 64, Against 52, Abstentions 4)
95 (For 101, Against 19, Abstentions 1)
39 (For 113, Against 5, Abstentions 3)
194 (For 65, Against 53, Abstentions 3)
195 (For 60, Against 56, Abstentions 2)
198 (For 68, Against 48, Abstentions 2)
199 (For 67, Against 52, Abstentions 1)
200 (For 64, Against 53, Abstentions 1)
201 (For 70, Against 52, Abstentions 1)
202 (For 71, Against 48, Abstentions 3)
203 (For 70, Against 52, Abstentions 1)
204 (For 68, Against 54, Abstentions 1)
205 (For 70, Against 50, Abstentions 1)
98 (For 87, Against 10, Abstentions 25)
41 (For 65, Against 47, Abstentions 6)
42 (For 77, Against 46, Abstentions 1)
43 (For 74, Against 48, Abstentions 2)
220 (For 87, Against 27, Abstentions 9)
12 (For 78, Against 44, Abstentions 2)
16 (For 75, Against 48, Abstentions 1)
101 (For 93, Against 19, Abstentions 11)
102 (For 99, Against 15, Abstentions 9)
103 (For 96, Against 18, Abstentions 9)
224 (For 77, Against 47, Abstentions 1)
45 (For 76, Against 42, Abstentions 2)
46 (For 77, Against 42, Abstentions 2)
47 (For 98, Against 19, Abstentions 3)
107 (For 78, Against 30, Abstentions 13)
110 (For 103, Against 7, Abstentions 11)
111 (For 102, Against 7, Abstentions 12)
240 (For 110, Against 9, Abstentions 3)
51 (For 73, Against 48, Abstentions 3)

The following amendments were disagreed to (by division)—

192 (For 50, Against 67, Abstentions 3)
96 (For 50, Against 66, Abstentions 5)
196 (For 39, Against 78, Abstentions 5)

197 (For 57, Against 62, Abstentions 2)
207 (For 50, Against 71, Abstentions 3)
210 (For 47, Against 70, Abstentions 6)
211 (For 48, Against 71, Abstentions 4)
212 (For 50, Against 69, Abstentions 5)
213 (For 42, Against 78, Abstentions 3)
214 (For 10, Against 111, Abstentions 4)
217 (For 40, Against 76, Abstentions 5)
218 (For 56, Against 63, Abstentions 5)
99 (For 58, Against 65, Abstentions 1)
100 (For 44, Against 76, Abstentions 4)
221 (For 14, Against 104, Abstentions 5)
44 (For 16, Against 103, Abstentions 4)
106 (For 54, Against 67, Abstentions 3)
226 (For 16, Against 99, Abstentions 6)
227 (For 46, Against 72, Abstentions 4)
228 (For 27, Against 83, Abstentions 10)
17 (For 45, Against 66, Abstentions 9)
229 (For 34, Against 76, Abstentions 8)
230 (For 27, Against 83, Abstentions 11)
231 (For 27, Against 88, Abstentions 8)
232 (For 58, Against 62, Abstentions 2)
18 (For 41, Against 74, Abstentions 7)
233 (For 13, Against 102, Abstentions 6)
234 (For 21, Against 96, Abstentions 5)
108 (For 47, Against 69, Abstentions 4)
236 (For 49, Against 69, Abstentions 4)
109 (For 31, Against 73, Abstentions 16)
237 (For 20, Against 96, Abstentions 6)
112 (For 7, Against 112, Abstentions 3)
50 (For 49, Against 73, Abstentions 1).

The following amendments were pre-empted: 208, 222, 104, 105, 223 and 225.

The following amendments were not moved: 190, 191, 193, 209, 219, 19, 235, 238, 239, 242, 243, 244, 245 and 246.

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 30 minutes. The motion was agreed to.

The Presiding Officer exercised her power under Rule 9.8.4A(c) to allow the debate on Group 14 to continue beyond the limit in order to avoid the debate being unreasonably curtailed.

7. Decision Time: There were no decisions to be taken at Decision Time on the items noted above.

The meeting closed at 9.57 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
12 March 2026

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 12 March 2026—

Economy and Fair Work Committee, 3rd Report, 2026 (Session 6): Report on the Legislative Consent Memorandum for the Cyber Security and Resilience (Network and Information Systems) Bill (SP Paper 1064)

Subordinate Legislation

Laid Only Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 12 March 2026 and are not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Vulnerable Witnesses (Criminal Evidence) (Scotland) Act 2019 (Commencement No. 3 and Transitional Provision) Regulations 2026 (SSI 2026/136 (C. 17))
laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education in Scotland (Appointment) Order 2026 (SSI 2026/138)
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 12 March 2026 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Bringing Hope, Building Futures: Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2026-2031 (SG/2026/104) laid under Section 9 of the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017

Animal Health Act 1981: Expenditure and Prosecutions – 2025 (SG/2026/28) laid under Section 80 of the Animal Health Act 1981

UHI North, West and Hebrides Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2024 (SG/2026/7) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

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