



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 97, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 19 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. Towards the Fourth Anniversary of Russia's Full-scale Invasion of Ukraine: The Parliament debated S6M-20434 in the name of Kenneth Gibson — That the Parliament recognises that 24 February 2026 marks the fourth anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine following the illegal annexation of Crimea in 2014 and proxy war in Donetsk and Luhansk; believes that Russian forces continue to indiscriminately bombard Ukrainian cities and control around one fifth of Ukraine's territory, including Luhansk, Crimea and most of Donetsk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia; considers that fighting and air strikes have resulted in over 53,000 civilian casualties and that President Putin's veiled threats throughout the war to use nuclear weapons have raised fears of escalation; notes that around 3.7 million people are internally displaced in Ukraine and roughly 6.9 million refugees are recorded globally, including over 29,000 Ukrainians who arrived in Scotland, including in Cunninghame North, with a sponsor in Scotland through the Homes for Ukraine scheme; acknowledges the immense military casualties suffered by both sides, particularly Russia, given what it sees as its profligate use of manpower; notes the view that any ceasefire or settlement that cedes territory or lacks binding security guarantees could allow Russia to regroup and renew attacks, and that this would create the risk of a Carthaginian peace intended to permanently weaken and then

annexe Ukraine; further notes the view that robust international support, including military, economic and humanitarian assistance, is essential to enable the survival of Ukraine, deter further aggression and secure a just and lasting peace, and expresses solidarity with the people and armed forces of Ukraine.

4. Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body Questions: Questions were answered by members of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body.

5. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Climate Action and Energy, and Transport were answered by Cabinet Secretaries.

6. Restraint and Seclusion in Schools (Scotland) Bill - Stage 3: The Bill was considered at Stage 3.

The following amendments were agreed to (without division): 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7.

7. Stage 3 Timetable: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Martin Whitfield), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-21148—That the Parliament agrees that, during stage 3 of the Visitor Levy (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill, debate on groups of amendments shall, subject to Rule 9.8.4A, be brought to a conclusion by the time limits indicated, those time limits being calculated from when the stage begins and excluding any periods when other business is under consideration or when a meeting of the Parliament is suspended or otherwise not in progress:

Groups 1 to 3: 25 minutes

Groups 4 to 6: 1 hour.

The motion was agreed to.

8. Visitor Levy (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill - Stage 3: The Bill was considered at Stage 3.

The following amendments were agreed to (without division): 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24.

The following amendments were agreed to (by division)—

31 (For 81, Against 28, Abstentions 0)

The following amendments were disagreed to (by division)—

5 (For 27, Against 82, Abstentions 0)

6 (For 26, Against 83, Abstentions 0)

25 (For 25, Against 82, Abstentions 0)

26 (For 30, Against 79, Abstentions 0)

12 (For 26, Against 81, Abstentions 0)

27 (For 27, Against 82, Abstentions 0)

28 (For 27, Against 83, Abstentions 0)

29 (For 24, Against 84, Abstentions 0)
30 (For 26, Against 84, Abstentions 0)
32 (For 25, Against 83, Abstentions 0)
33 (For 26, Against 84, Abstentions 0).

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

9. Stage 3 Timetable: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-21147—That the Parliament agrees that, during stage 3 of the Crofting and Scottish Land Court Bill, debate on groups of amendments shall, subject to Rule 9.8.4A, be brought to a conclusion by the time limits indicated, those time limits being calculated from when the stage begins and excluding any periods when other business is under consideration or when a meeting of the Parliament is suspended or otherwise not in progress:

Groups 1 to 3: 45 minutes

Groups 4 to 6: 1 hour 35 minutes

Groups 7 to 9: 2 hours.

The motion was agreed to.

10. Crofting and Scottish Land Court Bill - Stage 3: The Bill was considered at Stage 3.

The following amendments were agreed to (without division): 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 46, 50, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33.

The following amendments were agreed to (by division)—

34 (For 81, Against 25, Abstentions 0)
13 (For 67, Against 36, Abstentions 0)
15 (For 83, Against 21, Abstentions 0)
16 (For 102, Against 1, Abstentions 0)
17 (For 82, Against 22, Abstentions 0)
18 (For 82, Against 22, Abstentions 0)
19 (For 82, Against 22, Abstentions 0)
20 (For 82, Against 22, Abstentions 0)
21 (For 82, Against 22, Abstentions 0)
28 (For 82, Against 24, Abstentions 0)

The following amendments were disagreed to (by division)—

47 (For 22, Against 84, Abstentions 1)
51 (For 42, Against 66, Abstentions 0)
57 (For 25, Against 80, Abstentions 0).

The following amendments were moved and, no member having objected, withdrawn: 36, 56, 26A.

The following amendments were not moved: 35, 37, 43, 44, 45, 16A, 48, 49, 52, 53, 54 and 55.

11. Children (Care, Care Experience and Services Planning) (Scotland) Bill: The Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise (Natalie Don-Innes) moved S6M-21102—That the Parliament agrees that the Children (Care, Care Experience and Services Planning) (Scotland) Bill be passed.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 111, Against 0, Abstentions 0).

12. Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme Resolution: Jackson Carlaw, on behalf of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body, moved S6M-21143—

[S6M-21143 | Scottish Parliament Website](#)

The motion was agreed to (DT).

13. Party Leaders' Expenses Scheme Resolution: Jackson Carlaw, on behalf of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body, moved S6M-21144—

[S6M-21144 | Scottish Parliament Website](#)

The motion was agreed to (DT).

14. Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee's 3rd Report, 2026 (Session 6): Martin Whitfield, on behalf of the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee, moved S6M-21053—That the Parliament notes the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee's 3rd Report, 2026 (Session 6), Standing Order rule changes arising from the Committee's report 'Strengthening committees' effectiveness' (SP Paper 977), and agrees that the changes to Standing Orders set out in Annex A of the report be made with effect from 11 May 2026.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

15. Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee's 4th Report, 2026 (Session 6): Martin Whitfield, on behalf of the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee, moved S6M-21052—That the Parliament notes the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee's 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), and agrees that the changes to Standing Orders set out in Annex A of the report be made with effect from 11 May 2026.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

16. Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee's 8th Report, 2026 (Session 6): Martin Whitfield, on behalf of the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee, moved S6M-21049—That the Parliament notes the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee's 8th Report, 2026 (Session 6), Standing Orders rule changes - Elected Conveners (SP Paper 1033), and agrees that the changes to Standing Orders set out in Annexe A of the report be made with effect from 11 May 2026.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 104, Against 2, Abstentions 0).

17. 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 7.13 pm.

The motion was agreed to.

18. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 as noted above.

The meeting closed at 7.19 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
19 March 2026

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

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 19 March 2026—

Finance and Public Administration Committee, 11th Report, 2026 (Session 6):
Legacy report of the Finance and Public Administration Committee, Session 6
(SP Paper 1073)

Criminal Justice Committee, 12th Report, 2026 (Session 6): Report on the
Antisocial Behaviour (Fixed Penalty Offences) (Miscellaneous Amendment)
(Scotland) Order 2026 [draft] (SP Paper 1082)

Education, Children and Young People Committee, 5th Report, 2026 (Session
6): Annual Report of the Education, Children and Young People Committee
2025-26 (SP Paper 1088)

Social Justice and Social Security Committee, 6th Report, 2026 (Session 6):
Annual Report of the Social Justice and Social Security Committee 2025-26
(SP Paper 1090)

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee, 12th Report,
2026 (Session 6): Annual report of the Standards, Procedures and Public
Appointments Committee 2025-26 (SP Paper 1092)

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 19 March 2026 and are
not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**Ayrshire College Board of Management Report and Financial Statements For
the year ended 31 July 2025 (SG/2026/80)** laid under Section 22(5) of the Public
Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Borders College Annual Report and Financial Statement (2024/2025)
(SG/2026/81) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability
(Scotland) Act 2000

**City of Glasgow College Annual Report & Accounts 2025 (Academic Year 2024-
25) (SG/2026/82)** laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability
(Scotland) Act 2000

**Dumfries and Galloway College Annual Report and Financial Statements For
The Period 1 August 2024 To 31 July 2025 (SG/2026/83)** laid under Section 22(5)
of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

**Dundee and Angus College Annual Report and Financial Statements For the
year ended 31 July 2025 (SG/2026/84)** laid under Section 22(5) of the Public
Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Edinburgh College Annual Report and Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 July 2025 (SG/2026/85) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Fife College Annual Accounts For the year ended 31 July 2025 (SG/2026/86) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Forth Valley College of Further and Higher Education Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2025 (SG/2026/87) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Glasgow Clyde College Annual Report and Financial Statements for Year Ending 31 July 2025 (SG/2026/88) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Glasgow Colleges' Regional Board Annual Report and Financial Statements 2024-25 (SG/2026/89) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Glasgow Kelvin College Annual Report & Financial Statements 2024-2025 (SG/2026/90) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

UHI Inverness College Annual Report & Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2025 (SG/2026/91) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

UHI Moray Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2025 (SG/2026/92) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

North East Scotland College Financial Statements for the year to 31 July 2025 (SG/2026/94) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

New College Lanarkshire Group Financial Statements Year Ended: 31st July 2025 (SG/2025/93) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

UHI Perth Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2025 (SG/2026/95) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

South Lanarkshire College Annual Report and Financial Statements Year ended 31 July 2025 (SG/2026/96) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

West College Scotland Annual Accounts 2024-2025 (SG/2026/98) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

**West Lothian College Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31
July 2025 (SG/2026/99) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and
Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000**

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All documents are available on
the Scottish Parliament website at:

www.parliament.scot/documents

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