



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 62, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 17 December 2025

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. **Portfolio Questions:** Questions on Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands, and then on, Health and Social Care were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.
2. **Ministerial Statement:** The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills (Jenny Gilruth) made a statement and answered questions on Protecting Children from Harm.
3. **Criminal Justice Committee Debate: Cybercrime:** The Parliament debated Cybercrime.
4. **Pension Schemes Bill - UK Legislation:** The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government (Shona Robison) moved S6M-20172—That the Parliament agrees that the relevant provisions of the Pension Schemes Bill, introduced in the House of Commons on 5 June 2025, and subsequently amended, relating to clauses 1 (Asset pool companies), 2 (Asset management) and 5 (Scheme manager governance reviews) of Chapter 1 of Part 1, so far as these matters alter the executive competence of the Scottish Ministers, should be considered by the UK Parliament.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

5. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-20199—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 6 January 2026

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions

followed by Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee Debate: Civil Legal Assistance in Scotland

followed by Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee Debate: Petition PE2018: Recognise the Value of Swimming Pools and Provide Financial Relief to Help Keep Pools Open

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 7 January 2026

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Constitution, External Affairs and Culture, and Parliamentary Business; Justice and Home Affairs

followed by Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.10 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 8 January 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: Education and Skills

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Building Safety Levy (Scotland) Bill

followed by Financial Resolution: Building Safety Levy (Scotland) Bill

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 13 January 2026

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions

followed by Ministerial Statement: Scottish Budget 2026-27

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Crofting and Scottish Land Court Bill

followed by Financial Resolution: Crofting and Scottish Land Court Bill

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 14 January 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 Stage 1 Debate: Children (Care, Care Experience and Services Planning) (Scotland) Bill

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 15 January 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 3 Proceedings: UEFA European Championship (Scotland) Bill

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Prostitution (Offences and Support) (Scotland) 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 5 January 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.

The motion was agreed to.

6. Stage 1 Timetable: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-20200—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Digital Assets (Scotland) Bill at stage 1 be completed by 23 January 2026.

The motion was agreed to.

7. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-20201—That the Parliament agrees that the Food Safety Act 1990 Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2026 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

8. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-20202—That the Parliament agrees that the Management of Offenders (Scotland) Act 2019 and the Prisoners (Early Release) (Scotland) Act 2025 (Consequential Modifications) Regulations 2026 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

9. Committee Membership: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-20203—That the Parliament agrees that—

Gillian Mackay be appointed to replace Patrick Harvie as a member of the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee; and

Patrick Harvie be appointed to replace Ross Greer as a member of the Finance and Public Administration Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

10. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 4, 7, 8 and 9 as noted above.

11. Recognising Small Business Saturday 2025: The Parliament debated S6M-20035 in the name of Rachael Hamilton— That the Parliament marks Small Business Saturday UK on 6 December 2025, an annual grassroots, not-for-profit campaign that celebrates and encourages support for small businesses across the UK; acknowledges that the campaign aims to highlight small business success while

encouraging consumers to shop locally; recognises the vital role that small businesses play in communities across Scotland, including in the Scottish Borders, by driving growth, creating jobs and sustaining vibrant town centres; understands that micro and small businesses represent 98% of all enterprises in Scotland, employ more than 900,000 people and turnover £93 billion annually, according to the Federation of Small Businesses; considers that small businesses, particularly in rural communities, face increasing pressures from rising costs and economic uncertainty; notes the view that, although the Small Business Saturday occurs only once a year, support for and recognition of small businesses must continue throughout the year, and celebrates the vital contribution of small and rural businesses to Scotland's economy.

The meeting closed at 6.31 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
17 December 2025

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

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 17 December 2025—

Education, Children and Young People Committee, 10th Report, 2025
(Session 6): Stage 1 Report on the Children (Care, Care Experience and
Services Planning) (Scotland) Bill (SP Paper 935)

Criminal Justice Committee, 13th Report, 2025 (Session 6): Report on the
Legislative Consent Memorandum for the Sentencing Bill (UK Parliament
legislation) (SP Paper 941)

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 17 December 2025 and
are subject to the affirmative procedure—

First-tier Tribunal for Scotland Local Taxation Chamber (Rules of Procedure and
Composition) (Miscellaneous Amendment) Regulations 2026 [draft]
laid under section 79(2)(c) of the Tribunals (Scotland) Act 2014

Scotland Act 1998 (Modification of Schedule 5) Order 2026 [draft]
laid under paragraphs 1 and 2 of schedule 7 of the Scotland Act 1998

The following affirmative instrument was re-laid before the Parliament on 17
December 2025—

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme (Amendment) Order 2026 [draft]
laid under paragraph 11 of schedule 3 of the Climate Change Act 2008

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 17 December 2025 and
are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Accountant in Bankruptcy Annual Report and Accounts 2024-25
(SG/2025/122) laid under Section 200(3) of the Bankruptcy (Scotland) Act 2016
and Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

British Film Institute Group and National Lottery Annual Report and Financial
Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 (SG/2025/235) laid under Section
88 of the Scotland Act 1998

Climate Change Committee Annual report and Accounts 2024/25 (SG/2025/293)
laid under Paragraph 22(2)(b) of Schedule 1 of the Climate Change Act 2008

Ferguson Marine (Port Glasgow) Holdings Limited Annual Report and Financial

Statements 31 March 2025 (SG/2025/314) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Independent National Whistleblowing Officer: Compendium of Case Reports for December 2025 (INWO/2025/12) laid under Sections 15(1) and 15(1A) of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002

Redress Scotland Annual Report and Accounts 2024-25 (SG/2025/326) laid under Section 17 of the Redress for Survivors (Historical Child Abuse in Care) (Scotland) Act 2021 and section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Scottish Public Services Ombudsman: Compendium of Case Reports for December 2025 (SPSO/2025/12) laid under Sections 15(1) and 15(1A) of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002

The First National Good Food Nation Plan - Statement on how regard has been had to the parliamentary scrutiny of the proposed national Good Food Nation Plan as required by section 3(3) of the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022 (SG/2025/296) laid under Section 3(3) The Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022

The First National Good Food Nation Plan December 2025 SG/2025/295 laid under Section 1(1)(b) of The Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022

United Kingdom Anti-Doping Limited Annual Report and Accounts 2024/25 (SG/2025/154) laid under Section 88 of the Scotland Act 1998

VisitScotland Group Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (SG/2025/310) laid under section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

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the Scottish Parliament website at:

www.parliament.scot/documents

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