



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 84, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 19 February 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. Fair Share of Funding for Public Services:** The Parliament debated S6M-20268 in the name of Alexander Burnett—That the Parliament notes calls for fairer funding to be allocated among Scotland's 32 local authorities and 14 NHS boards; further notes reports that Aberdeenshire Council is the fourth lowest funded local authority in Scotland, receiving less government funding per capita than the Scottish average; believes that NHS Grampian is the second lowest funded NHS board per head of population, is reportedly facing a deficit of nearly £50 million, has just 1.4 beds per 1,000 people, and has one of the fastest growing elderly populations in Scotland; considers that rural and island communities cover large geographical areas, which come with unique challenges and require significant resources, particularly with regard to infrastructure maintenance, service delivery and issues that arise from extreme weather; recognises concerns that local services are under immense pressure, and notes the view that it is important to ensure that communities are properly resourced to enable them to continue to have access to local services that meet their needs, including reliable public transport, local schools and health and social care services.

**4. Portfolio Questions:** Questions on Education and Skills were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and Ministers.

**5. Visitor Levy (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill:** The Minister for Public Finance (Ivan McKee) moved S6M-20814—That the Parliament agrees to the general principles of the Visitor Levy (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**6. Scottish Rate Resolution:** The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government (Shona Robison) moved S6M-20844—That the Parliament agrees that, for the purposes of section 11A of the Income Tax Act 2007 (which provides for Income Tax to be charged at Scottish rates on certain non-savings and non-dividend income of a Scottish taxpayer to be charged above the personal allowance), the Scottish rates and limits for the tax year 2026-27 are as follows—

(a) a starter rate of 19%, charged on income up to a limit of £3,967,

(b) the Scottish basic rate is 20%, charged on income above £3,967 and up to a limit of £16,956,

(c) an intermediate rate of 21%, charged on income above £16,956 and up to a limit of £31,092,

(d) a higher rate of 42%, charged on income above £31,092 and up to a limit of £62,430,

(e) an advanced rate of 45%, charged on income above £62,430 and up to a limit of £125,140, and

(f) a top rate of 48%, charged on income above £125,140.

The motion was agreed to (by division: For 93, Against 29, Abstentions 1).

**7. Ecocide (Scotland) Bill: Financial Resolution :** The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government (Shona Robison) moved S6M-20748—That the Parliament, for the purposes of any Act of the Scottish Parliament resulting from the Ecocide (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).

**8. Reappointment of the Chair of the Scottish Fiscal Commission:** The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government (Shona Robison) moved S6M-20842—That the Parliament agrees with the recommendation of the Scottish

Government and the Finance and Public Administration Committee that Professor Graeme Roy be reappointed as Chair of the Scottish Fiscal Commission.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**9. Decision Time:** The Parliament took decisions on items 5, 7, and 8 as noted above.

**10. Justice for WASPI Women:** The Parliament debated S6M-20614 in the name of Bill Kidd—That the Parliament condemns the latest decision by the UK Government regarding, and its continued refusal to compensate, the more than 3.5 million women affected by the acknowledged failures of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to inform them of state pension age increases, despite the UK Government being made to reconsider its original refusal as a result of the recommendations of the Parliamentary Ombudsman, which called for compensation of between £1,000 and £2,950 for each of those affected; echoes the comments of the Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI) group, which said that the latest decision demonstrated "utter contempt" for those affected in the Glasgow Anniesland constituency and across the country, and notes the calls for the immediate reversal of what it sees as this shameful, immoral and inhumane decision.

The meeting closed at 5.44 pm.

**David McGill**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
19 February 2026

## **Appendix**

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

### **Committee Reports**

The following report was published on 19 February 2026—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 20th Report, 2026 (Session 6): Delegated powers in the Scottish Parliament (Recall and Removal of Members) Bill (as amended at Stage 2) (SP Paper 1016)

### **Subordinate Legislation**

#### **Laid Only Instruments**

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 19 February 2026 and are not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Regulation of Legal Services (Scotland) Act 2025 (Commencement No. 1)  
Regulations 2026 (SSI 2026/96 (C. 7))  
laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform  
(Scotland) Act 2010

Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Act 2023 (Commencement No. 3 and Transitional Provision) Regulations 2026 (SSI 2026/98 (C. 8))  
laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform  
(Scotland) Act 2010

Act of Adjournal (Criminal Procedure Rules 1996 Amendment) (Affirmations and Oaths) 2026 (SSI 2026/99)  
laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform  
(Scotland) Act 2010

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