



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 69, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 15 January 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. A Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Fit for the Future: The Parliament debated S6M-20218 in the name of Maggie Chapman—That the Parliament recognises, and is grateful for, the work of the around 7,600 firefighters and support staff in the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), who help keep people and nature in the North East Scotland region and across the country safe; understands with concern that, since 2013, the SFRS resource budget has been reduced in real terms by £58 million per annum, with 1,239 firefighter posts lost, and that the recent Service Delivery Review could see the loss of fire stations and appliances across the country; welcomes the dedicated work of Fire Brigades Union (FBU) Scotland in campaigning for a well-resourced and well-equipped service, and its 2023 paper, *Firestorm*, a Report into the Future of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service; notes the shared commitment of FBU and SFRS to firefighter role expansion and, in particular, the FBU's campaign, DECON, which aims to shed light on the health risks of fire contaminants to firefighters; understands that firefighters have a mortality rate from all cancers 1.6 times higher than the general public; notes the DECON campaign's recommendations, which include annual health monitoring and recording of exposures for all firefighters; further notes what it sees as the impact of the climate emergency on the SFRS, including an increasing frequency and severity of wildfires

and flooding, and notes the FBU's Climate Emergency campaign, which aims to highlight the impact of the climate crisis on fire and rescue services.

4. Motion without Notice: Maggie Chapman moved without notice that, under Rule 8.14.3, the debate be extended by up to 30 minutes.

The motion was agreed to.

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

6. Ministerial Statement: The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills (Jenny Gilruth) made a statement and answered questions on Additional Support for Learning Review.

7. UEFA European Championship (Scotland) Bill: The Bill was considered at Stage 3.

The following amendments were disagreed to (by division)—

1 (For 22, Against 87 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0).

The following amendment was moved and, no member having objected, withdrawn:
2.

The following amendment was not moved: 3

8. UEFA European Championship (Scotland) Bill: The Minister for Business and Employment (Richard Lochhead) moved S6M-20390—That the Parliament agrees that the UEFA European Championship (Scotland) Bill be passed.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 114 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 0, Abstentions 0).

9. Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Bill - UK Legislation: The Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Energy (Gillian Martin) moved S6M-20419—That the Parliament agrees that the relevant provisions of the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Bill, introduced in the House of Commons on 10 September 2025, and subsequently amended, relating to clauses 2 to 20, 22, 26, the schedule, a new clause after clause 9 (Power to make regulations: Scotland and Northern Ireland), a new clause after clause 9 (Procedure for regulations under section (Power to make regulations: Scotland and Northern Ireland)), a new clause after clause 9 (Consultation: Scotland and Northern Ireland), a new clause after clause 12 (Power to make regulations: Scotland and Northern Ireland (No. 2)), a new clause after clause 12 (Procedure for regulations under section (Power to make regulations: Scotland and Northern Ireland (No. 2))), and a new clause after clause 12 (Consultation: Scotland and Northern Ireland (No. 2)), so far as these matters fall within legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament and alter the executive competence of the Scottish Ministers, should be considered by the UK Parliament.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 82 (including 1 proxy vote, Against 1, Abstentions 28).

10. Standing Order Rule Changes – Lodging Deadlines for Public Bills: Martin Whitfield moved S6M-20373—That the Parliament notes the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee's 1st Report, 2026 (Session 6), Standing Order Rule changes - lodging deadlines for public bills (SP Paper 954), and agrees that the temporary rule change to Standing Orders set out in Annexe B of the report be made with effect from 19 January 2026.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

11. 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 5.14 pm.

The motion was agreed to.

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

The meeting closed at 5.20 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
15 January 2026

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 15 January 2026—

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee, 1st Report, 2026 (Session 6): The Hydrolysis (Scotland) (No.1) and (No.2) Regulations 2026 [draft] (SP Paper 962)

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 15 January 2026 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

National Bus Travel Concession Schemes (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) (No. 2) Order 2026 [draft]
laid under section 52(3) of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2005

The following instrument was withdrawn on 15 January 2026—

Conservation of Habitats and Species (Offshore Wind) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2026

Negative Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 15 January 2026 and are subject to the negative procedure—

Building (Fees) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2026 (SSI 2026/7)
laid under section 54(5) of the Building (Scotland) Act 2003

Scottish Landfill Tax (Administration) Amendment Regulations 2026 (SSI 2026/8)
laid under section 41(8) of the Landfill Tax (Scotland) Act 2014

Visitor Levy (Interest on Unpaid Levy and Penalties) (Scotland) Regulations 2026 (SSI 2026/9)
laid under section 68(3) of the Visitor Levy (Scotland) Act 2024

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