



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 88, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 3 March 2026

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Time for Reflection: Representative Tsering Yangkey, led Time for Reflection.

2. Revision to Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-20965—That the Parliament agrees to the following revisions to the programme of business for—

(a) Tuesday 3 March 2026—

after

followed by Topical Questions

insert

followed by Ministerial Statement: Ferries and Ports

followed by Ministerial Statement: Ferguson Marine

delete

5.00 pm Decision Time

and insert

5.15 pm Decision Time

(b) Thursday 5 March 2026—

after

followed by Appointment of Board Member to Environmental Standards Scotland

insert

followed by Financial Resolution: Freedom of Information Reform (Scotland) Bill

The motion was agreed to.

- 3. Topical Questions:** Questions were answered by Cabinet Secretaries.
- 4. Ministerial Statement:** The Cabinet Secretary for Transport (Fiona Hyslop) made a statement and answered questions on Ferries and Ports.
- 5. Ministerial Statement:** The Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic (Kate Forbes) made a statement and answered questions on Ferguson Marine.
- 6. Contract (Formation and Remedies) (Scotland) Bill – Stage 3:** The Bill was considered at Stage 3.

The following amendment was agreed to (without division): 1.

- 7. Contract (Formation and Remedies) (Scotland) Bill:** The Minister for Victims and Community Safety (Siobhian Brown) moved S6M-20943—That the Parliament agrees that the Contract (Formation and Remedies) (Scotland) Bill be passed.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 106, Against 0, Abstentions 0).

- 8. European Charter of Local Self-Government (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill – Reconsideration Stage:** The Bill was considered at Reconsideration Stage.

The following amendments were agreed to (without division): 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24.

- 9. European Charter of Local Self-Government (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill:** Mark Ruskell moved S6M-20934—That the Parliament agrees that the European Charter of Local Self-Government (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill be approved.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 108, Against 0, Abstentions 0).

- 10. Suspension of Standing Orders:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-20966—That the Parliament agrees that, for the purposes of consideration of the Visitor Levy (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill, Rule 9.5.3A of Standing Orders is suspended.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

11. Committee Meeting Times: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-20967—That the Parliament agrees that, under Rule 12.3.3B of Standing Orders, the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee can meet, if necessary, at the same time as a meeting of the Parliament after Portfolio Questions and before Decision Time and during Members' Business on Wednesday 4 March 2026.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

12. Substitution on Committees: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-20968—That the Parliament agrees that Stephen Kerr be appointed as the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party substitute on the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

13. 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 5.01 pm.

The motion was agreed to.

14. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 7, 9, 10 and 11 and 12 as noted above.

15. Recognising the Pressures Facing A&E Departments: The Parliament debated S6M-20795 in the name of Jackie Baillie—That the Parliament recognises the reported pressures facing A&E departments; is concerned that recorded waiting times are persistently high, with the number of people waiting more than 8 hours and 12 hours reported in 2025 as 171,854 and 74,052 respectively; notes the consequent rise in corridor care adversely affecting people in the Dumbarton constituency and across Scotland; considers that using the metric of acute hospital bed occupancy as well as A&E waiting times can help to relieve these pressures, and notes calls on the Scottish Government to ensure that reductions in occupancy act as the mechanism by which the whole system is held to account.

The meeting closed at 5.58 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
3 March 2026

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

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 27 February 2026—

Criminal Justice Committee, 5th Report, 2026 (Session 6): Report on the Early Removal of Prisoners from the United Kingdom (Amendment of Specified Time Periods) (Scotland) Order 2026 [draft] (SP Paper 1029)

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee, 10th Report, 2026 (Session 6): Report on the Draft Climate Change Plan (SP Paper 1031)

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee, 7th Report, 2026 (Session 6): Report on Standing Order rule changes – Miscellaneous and minor amendments (SP Paper 1032)

The following report was published on 2 March 2026—

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee, 8th Report 2026 (Session 6): Report on Standing Order rule changes – Elected Conveners (SP Paper 1033)

The following reports were published on 3 March 2026—

Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee, 4th Report, 2026 (Session 6): Report on subordinate legislation considered by the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee on 24 February 2026 (SP Paper 1034)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 22nd Report, 2026 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 3 March 2026 (SP Paper 1036)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 23rd Report, 2026 (Session 6): Delegated powers in the Building Safety Levy (Scotland) Bill (as amended at Stage 2) (SP Paper 1037)

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was re-laid before the Parliament on 27 February 2026—

Antisocial Behaviour (Fixed Penalty Offences) (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Order 2026 [draft]
laid under section 141(4)(a) of the Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004

Laid Only Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 2 March 2026 and are not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Renters' Rights Act 2025 (Commencement) (Scotland) Regulations 2026 (SSI 2026/113 (C. 9))

laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

Housing (Scotland) Act 2025 (Commencement No. 3) Regulations 2026 (SSI 2026/115 (C. 10))

laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

Legislative Consent Memorandums

The following memorandums were lodged on 27 February 2026—

Neil Gray, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care: Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Tobacco and Vapes Bill (UK Parliament legislation) (LCM-S6-51b)

Shona Robison, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government: Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Representation of the People Bill (UK Parliament legislation) (LCM-S6-74)

The following memorandum was lodged on 2 March 2026—

Angela Constance, Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs: Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Crime and Policing Bill (UK Parliament legislation) (LCM-S6-57d)

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 27 February 2026 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Office of Rail and Road (ORR) Annual Report and Accounts 2013-14 (SG/2026/71) laid under section 74 of the Railways Act 1993

Office of Rail and Road (ORR) Annual Report and Accounts 2014-15 (SG/2026/70) laid under section 74 of the Railways Act 1993

Office of Rail and Road (ORR) Annual Report and Accounts 2015-16 (SG/2026/69) laid under section 74 of the Railways Act 1993

Office of Rail and Road (ORR) Annual Report and Accounts 2016-17 (SG/2026/68) laid under section 74 of the Railways Act 1993

Office of Rail and Road (ORR) Annual Report and Accounts 2017-18

(SG/2026/67) laid under section 74 of the Railways Act 1993

Office of Rail and Road (ORR) Annual Report and Accounts 2018-19
(SG/2026/66) laid under section 74 of the Railways Act 1993

Office of Rail and Road (ORR) Annual Report and Accounts 2019-20
(SG/2026/65) laid under section 74 of the Railways Act 1993

Office of Rail and Road (ORR) Annual Report and Accounts 2020-21
(SG/2026/64) laid under section 74 of the Railways Act 1993

Office of Rail and Road (ORR) Annual Report and Accounts 2021-22
(SG/2026/63) laid under section 74 of the Railways Act 1993

Office of Rail and Road (ORR) Annual Report and Accounts 2022-23
(SG/2026/62) laid under section 74 of the Railways Act 1993

Office of Rail and Road (ORR) Annual Report and Accounts 2023-24
(SG/2026/61) laid under section 74 of the Railways Act 1993

Office of Rail and Road (ORR) Annual Report and Accounts 2024-25
(SG/2026/60) laid under section 74 of the Railways Act 1993

Wildlife Crime in Scotland 2024 (SG/2026/25) laid under Section 20 of the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 2 March 2026 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 – Section 142 Guidance for Licensing Boards – Licensing Board powers to determine a general extension of hours – FIFA World Cup 2026 (SG/2026/7) laid under Section 142 of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005

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