



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 53, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 26 November 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. Backing Oil and Gas: Douglas Lumsden moved S6M-19894—That the Parliament regrets the Scottish Government's ideological drive to end North Sea oil and gas exploration and production; notes the negative impact on oil and gas jobs, energy security, the economy and the environment of the Scottish Government's failure to pursue an informed, data-led, evidence-based North Sea policy; demands the immediate and unequivocal reversal of the Scottish Government's presumption against new oil and gas exploration and production, and calls on the UK Government to immediately abolish the Energy Profits Levy.

The Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Energy (Gillian Martin) moved amendment S6M-19894.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-19894 in the name of Douglas Lumsden (Backing Oil and Gas), leave out from first "the Scottish" to end and insert "that the Conservative Party, while in the UK Government, extended the Energy Profits Levy and failed to replace it with a sustainable fiscal regime that supports a just transition, and recognises that communities in Scotland are now paying the price of the UK Conservative administration's levy on Scottish industry."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 58 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 60 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 1).

Sarah Boyack moved amendment S6M-19894.4—

As an amendment to motion S6M-19894 in the name of Douglas Lumsden (Backing Oil and Gas), leave out from first "the Scottish" to end and insert "that the Scottish National Party (SNP) and the Conservative and Unionist Party stood by for years and let Scotland's oil and gas industry decline with no plan for the future; welcomes the UK Labour administration's plans to ensure that oil and gas continue to be key parts of the country's energy mix for decades to come, while working to unlock Scotland's huge renewable potential; condemns the two decades of SNP failure to turn this enormous potential into jobs, wealth and social good for communities across Scotland, and calls on the Scottish Government to urgently publish its Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan, and to invest now in skills development and the green jobs of the future."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 22 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 97 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 1).

The motion was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 28, Against 89 (including 3 proxy votes), Abstentions 3).

3. Growing Scotland's Economy: Craig Hoy moved S6M-19895—That the Parliament believes that the UK Budget should be an opportunity to promote economic growth, deliver investment in Scotland and address the alarming increase in economic inactivity; recognises the importance of backing working households, easing cost pressures and protecting Scotland's rural economy; believes that ending the Energy Profits Levy is essential to secure investment in the North Sea; emphasises that the UK Labour administration's tax rises on family farms and small businesses are deeply damaging and should be reversed, and warns against further tax rises; calls on the Scottish Government to prioritise growth with measures to improve productivity, support small businesses, tackle soaring welfare costs and strengthen Scotland's fiscal position, and believes that both of Scotland's governments must urgently prioritise economic stability, investment and opportunity as the foundations of sustainable public services within the UK.

The Minister for Public Finance (Ivan McKee) moved amendment S6M-19895.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-19895 in the name of Craig Hoy (Growing Scotland's Economy), leave out from "and address" to end and insert ", including through delivering investment that can be utilised for public services such as Scotland's NHS and to help Scotland's journey to net zero; further believes that a fiscal regime for offshore industries must support a just transition for oil and gas workers, and support the development of Scotland's key renewables sector; notes that UK Government tax changes on family farms and employer national insurance contributions have impacted Scotland's economy, and calls on all parties to support efforts to rejoin the European Union and the European Single Market, recognising that Brexit has

been the primary and most damaging impact on the economy and public finances in the last decade."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 58 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 60 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 2).

Michael Marra moved amendment S6M-19895.4—

As an amendment to motion S6M-19895 in the name of Craig Hoy (Growing Scotland's Economy), leave out from "UK Budget" to end and insert "delivery of a successful Scottish economy depends on stability in the UK public finances and a long-term plan to invest for future growth; recognises the challenging global circumstances, including the continued threat of tariffs, which create uncertainty and risk deterring investment and dampening growth; notes with concern that lower earnings and employment growth in Scotland compared to the rest of the UK are reducing the impact of tax policy in Scotland; agrees with the Auditor General for Scotland that 'the Scottish Government has not set out clearly enough how it plans to address this economic challenge in future years, and what this would do to support fiscal sustainability', and calls on the Scottish Government to work in proper partnership with the UK Government to deliver stability, long-term growth and prosperity across Scotland."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 23 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 98 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

Lorna Slater moved amendment S6M-19895.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-19895 in the name of Craig Hoy (Growing Scotland's Economy), leave out from first "believes" to end and insert "calls on the UK Government to deliver a budget that supports a fairer, greener economy for Scotland by introducing an annual wealth tax on the wealthiest 1% of households in the UK, raising between £70 billion and £130 billion a year, to invest in communities, public services and climate action across Scotland, including reducing the cost of energy and other essentials for those who are struggling with the cost of living and inflation."

Jamie Greene moved amendment S6M-19895.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-19895 in the name of Craig Hoy (Growing Scotland's Economy), leave out from first "should" to end and insert "must be a turning point, which delivers real economic growth, tackles the cost of living crisis and seeks a closer relationship with Europe; understands that far too many families are struggling to get by and believes that businesses have been held back by the increase to employer national insurance contributions; calls for an emergency plan to give immediate help through a 5p VAT cut for hospitality, accommodation and attractions until April 2027, alongside the removal of the main renewables obligation from people's electricity bills, funding both through a new windfall tax on large banks and saving households £270; notes the analysis by Audit Scotland that shows that there

is a projected deficit of £4.7 billion in the Scottish Budget by 2029-30, for which ministers have not provided detailed plans, and believes that Scotland deserves better than this, but that it needs to be a change with fairness at its heart."

After debate, amendment S6M-19895.1 was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 64 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 56 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0). As a result, amendment S6M-19895.2 was pre-empted.

The motion, as amended, was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 65 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 55 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament calls on the UK Government to deliver a budget that supports a fairer, greener economy for Scotland by introducing an annual wealth tax on the wealthiest 1% of households in the UK, raising between £70 billion and £130 billion a year, to invest in communities, public services and climate action across Scotland, including reducing the cost of energy and other essentials for those who are struggling with the cost of living and inflation.

4. Non-Domestic Rates (Liability for Unoccupied Properties) (Scotland)

Bill: The Minister for Public Finance (Ivan McKee) moved S6M-19891—That the Parliament agrees to the general principles of the Non-Domestic Rates (Liability for Unoccupied Properties) (Scotland) Bill.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 94 (including 3 proxy votes), Against 27, Abstentions 0).

5. Non-Domestic Rates (Liability for Unoccupied Properties) (Scotland)

Bill: Financial Resolution: The Minister for Public Finance (Ivan McKee) moved S6M-19928—That the Parliament, for the purposes of any Act of the Scottish Parliament resulting from the Non-Domestic Rates (Liability for Unoccupied Properties) (Scotland) Bill, agrees to—

(a) any expenditure of a kind referred to in Rule 9.12.3A of the Parliament's Standing Orders arising in consequence of the Act, and

(b) any increase in the revenue from non-domestic rates in relation to which Rule 9.12.3B(b) of the Parliament's Standing Orders applies arising in consequence of the Act.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 93 (including 3 proxy votes), Against 27, Abstentions 0).

6. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-19921—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 2 December 2025

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions

followed by Ministerial Statement: Commonwealth Games - Glasgow 2026

followed by Scottish Government Debate: All Together: Uniting Local and National Efforts, Across Sectors to End Violence Against Women and Girls

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 3 December 2025

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 Labour Party Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.10 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 4 December 2025

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 Education, Children and Young People Committee Debate: Widening Access to Higher Education

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 9 December 2025

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions

followed by Committee Business

followed by Scottish Government Business

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 10 December 2025

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Deputy First Minister Responsibilities, Economy and Gaelic; Finance and Local Government

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 11 December 2025

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: Climate Action and Energy, and Transport

followed by Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee Debate: British Sign Language (Scotland) Act 2015 Inquiry

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 1 December 2025, 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 (by division: For 92 (including 3 proxy votes), Against 26, Abstentions 0).

7. Stage 1 Timetable: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-19922—That the

Parliament agrees that consideration of the Greyhound Racing (Offences) (Scotland) Bill at stage 1 be completed by 30 January 2026.

The motion was agreed to.

8. Stage 1 Timetable: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-19923—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Prostitution (Offences and Support) (Scotland) Bill at stage 1 be completed by 16 January 2026.

The motion was agreed to.

9. Stage 2 Timetable: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-19924—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Tertiary Education and Training (Funding and Governance) (Scotland) Bill at stage 2 be completed by 5 December 2025.

The motion was agreed.

10. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-19925—That the Parliament agrees that the Budget (Scotland) Act 2025 Amendment Regulations 2025 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed (DT).

11. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-19926—That the Parliament agrees that the Cross-Border Public Procurement (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed (DT).

12. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-19927—That the Parliament agrees that the Public Procurement (Iraq Free Trade Agreement) (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed (DT).

13. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11 and 12 as noted above.

The meeting closed at 7.34 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
26 November 2025

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

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 26 November 2025—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 86th Report, 2025 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 25 November 2025 (SP Paper 918)

Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee, 6th Report, 2025 (Session 6): Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee Report on the Legislative Consent Memorandum (LCM) on the Pension Schemes Bill (SP Paper 919)

Legislative Consent Memorandum

The following memorandum was lodged on 26 November 2025—

Angela Constance, Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs:
Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Sentencing Bill (UK Parliament legislation) (LCM-S6-67)

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