



OFFICIAL REPORT
AITHISG OIFIGEIL

DRAFT

Meeting of the Parliament

Friday 16 January 2026

Session 6



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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Friday 16 January 2026

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Scottish Parliament

Friday 16 January 2026

[The Presiding Officer opened the meeting at 09:00]

General Question Time

The Presiding Officer (Alison Johnstone): Good morning. The first item of business is general question time.

Energy Profits Levy

1. Kevin Stewart (Aberdeen Central) (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with the UK Government about the impact of its Energy Profits Levy on business confidence, investment and jobs in Scotland. (S6O-05106)

The Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Energy (Gillian Martin): The *Official Report* is a written record of what was said in public meetings of the Scottish Parliament and in committee meetings. It is a substantially verbatim report. This means that repetitions and redundancies are omitted and obvious mistakes are corrected. Official Report staff exercise editorial judgment to convey the spoken word in written text while maintaining the flavour of the speech.

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Gillian Martin: The *Official Report* is a written record of what was said in public meetings of the Scottish Parliament and in committee meetings. It is a substantially verbatim report. This means that repetitions and redundancies are omitted and obvious mistakes are corrected. Official Report staff exercise editorial judgment to convey the spoken word in written text while maintaining the flavour of the speech.

High Street Businesses

2. Evelyn Tweed (Stirling) (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government what measures it is taking to develop year-round support for, and promotion of, high street businesses, in light of the recent Scotland Loves Local Week. (S6O-04919)

The Minister for Public Finance (Ivan McKee): The *Official Report* is a written record of what was said in public meetings of the Scottish

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Brit Card

3. Bill Kidd (Glasgow Anniesland) (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with the UK Government regarding any impact of the proposed so-called “Brit Card” digital ID scheme on the human rights of people in Scotland. (S6O-05081)

The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government (Shona Robison): The *Official Report* is a written record of what was said in public meetings of the Scottish Parliament and in committee meetings. It is a substantially verbatim report. This means that repetitions and redundancies are omitted and obvious mistakes are corrected. Official Report staff exercise editorial judgment to convey the spoken word in written text while maintaining the flavour of the speech.

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09:07

Meeting suspended.

09:09

On resuming—

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Portfolio Question Time

The Deputy Presiding Officer (Liam McArthur): The *Official Report* is a written record of what was said in public meetings of the Scottish Parliament and in committee meetings. It is a substantially verbatim report. This means that repetitions and redundancies are omitted and obvious mistakes are corrected. Official Report staff exercise editorial judgment to convey the spoken word in written text while maintaining the flavour of the speech.

Education and Skills

Higher History Grades

1. **Douglas Ross (Highlands and Islands) (Con):** To ask the Scottish Government for what reason it considers the percentage of students earning an A, B or C in Higher History fluctuated by 27.6% between 2023 and 2025. (S6O-05053)

The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills (Jenny Gilruth): The *Official Report* is a written record of what was said in public meetings of the Scottish Parliament and in committee meetings. It is a substantially verbatim report. This means that repetitions and redundancies are omitted and obvious mistakes are corrected. Official Report staff exercise editorial judgment to convey the spoken word in written text while maintaining the flavour of the speech.

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Justice and Home Affairs

Residential Care

1. Jamie Greene (West Scotland) (LD): To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to increase the availability of residential social care beds in the west of Scotland, in light of reported closures and service reductions in the region. (S6O-04911)

The Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs (Angela Constance): The *Official Report* is a written record of what was said in public meetings of the Scottish Parliament and in committee meetings. It is a substantially verbatim report. This means that repetitions and redundancies are omitted and obvious mistakes are corrected. Official Report staff exercise editorial judgment to convey the spoken word in written text while maintaining the flavour of the speech.

Behaviour in Schools

2. Willie Rennie (North East Fife) (LD): To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to the recommendation made by the Commission on School Reform report, Behaviour in Schools, that teachers should be able to suspend or exclude pupils who exhibit persistent behaviour issues. (S6T-02680)

The Minister for Drug and Alcohol Policy and Sport (Maree Todd): The *Official Report* is a written record of what was said in public meetings of the Scottish Parliament and in committee meetings. It is a substantially verbatim report. This means that repetitions and redundancies are omitted and obvious mistakes are corrected. Official Report staff exercise editorial judgment to convey the spoken word in written text while maintaining the flavour of the speech.

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Oil and Gas Industry

The Deputy Presiding Officer (Annabelle Ewing): The *Official Report* is a written record of what was said in public meetings of the Scottish Parliament and in committee meetings. It is a substantially verbatim report. This means that repetitions and redundancies are omitted and obvious mistakes are corrected. Official Report staff exercise editorial judgment to convey the spoken word in written text while maintaining the flavour of the speech.

09:21

The Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Energy (Gillian Martin): The *Official Report* is a written record of what was said in public meetings of the Scottish Parliament and in committee meetings. It is a substantially verbatim report. This means that repetitions and redundancies are omitted and obvious mistakes are corrected. Official Report staff exercise editorial judgment to convey the spoken word in written text while maintaining the flavour of the speech.

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I move,

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."

09:24

Douglas Lumsden (North East Scotland) (Con): The *Official Report* is a written record of what was said in public meetings of the Scottish Parliament and in committee meetings. It is a substantially verbatim report. This means that

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I move,

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 Deputy Presiding Officer: The *Official Report* is a written record of what was said in public meetings of the Scottish Parliament and in committee meetings. It is a substantially verbatim report. This means that repetitions and redundancies are omitted and obvious mistakes are corrected. Official Report staff exercise editorial judgment to convey the spoken word in written text while maintaining the flavour of the speech.

Meeting closed at 09:26.

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