Scottish FMQs Tracker

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25 June 2026 (Thursday) — Final FMQs before summer recess

Note: Held on Thursday this week instead of usual Tuesday.

Key Topics

SNP Finances / Peter Murrell Sentencing (DOMINANT)

- **Russell Findlay (Con)** raised the case of Peter Murrell (sentenced to 5y 3m for embezzling £400k+ from SNP). Claimed Swinney "enabled the crimes" and was "at the heart of the cover-up". Called for apology to whistleblowers Allison Graham and Cynthia Guthrie (former SNP Finance & Audit Committee members who said they were bullied by Sturgeon).
- **Swinney** rejected claims as "baseless", said strong governance now in place, tried to draw a line under the issue.
- **Malcolm Offord (Reform UK)** called for creation of a "Murrell collection" of embezzled items, and for the "People's Pen" (Sturgeon's resignation fountain pen) to go to People's Palace. Asked for inquiry into "Murrellgate" and Sturgeon's "no comment" police interview.
- **Swinney** replied: "No, I'm going to get on delivering for the people of Scotland."
- BBC Analysis: Two ex-SNP finance officials told The Sun they were bullied by Sturgeon when trying to raise alarms. Suggest no culture change in SNP. Issue not going away.

Post-School Education & Skills

- **Anas Sarwar (Lab)** raised Audit Scotland's "damning" report on post-school education. Asked for apprenticeship guarantee. Referenced Edinburgh stabbings.
- **Swinney** accepted findings but said 93.5% of young people now have positive destination. £198m/year for apprenticeships, target 150,000 new apprenticeships this parliament. Offered to work with Labour.

Hyperscale Data Centres

- **Gillian Mackay (Green)** raised concerns about environmental/energy impact. 6,000+ people wrote to FM calling for moratorium.
- **Swinney** said considering planning guidance; exploring whether decisions can be made at local council level.

Trans Prisoners

- Following Lady Ross ruling (Friday), Swinney confirmed government would not appeal. Trans inmates being moved to jails according to biological sex.
- **Offord** asked about Isla Bryson case. Swinney: "I do not intend to talk about individual cases."

Sexual Crimes / Domestic Abuse Protection

- **Alex Cole-Hamilton (LD)** said justice system in crisis, domestic abuse protection still not in place. Why is government dragging its feet?
- **Swinney** said rise in sexual crimes partly due to increased reporting/prosecution. Government has passed legislation. Denied "dragging heels."

Prisoner Numbers

- Government expected to announce plans for early release of longer-term prisoners this afternoon.

Did NOT Come Up

- Section 30 / independence referendum
- NHS waiting lists (QEUH not raised this week)
- Murrell/SNP finances dominated instead

Sources

- BBC Live Blog
- BBC Scotland Politics

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