



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 103, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 29 April 2025

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Time for Reflection: Rev Tommy MacNeil, Minister, Martin's Memorial Church, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, led Time for Reflection.

2. Topical Questions: Questions were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and a Minister.

3. Supporting Scottish Industry During Turbulent Economic Times: The Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic (Kate Forbes) moved S6M-17352—That the Parliament recognises the value of Scotland's heavy industrial and manufacturing sectors, and the significant contribution that they make to the national and regional economy; notes recent developments in global trade policy and their potential economic impact; welcomes the UK Government's intervention in British Steel to support the continued resilience of the supply chain, and believes that the UK Government should give similar consideration to its engagement with the Grangemouth oil refinery, given its significance to national resilience and high-quality job opportunities.

Murdo Fraser moved amendment S6M-17352.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-17352 in the name of Kate Forbes (Supporting Scottish Industry During Turbulent Economic Times), leave out from “welcomes” to end and insert “condemns the UK Labour administration's increase to employer national insurance contributions, which broke an explicit manifesto promise and put a large additional burden on industry in already

challenging circumstances, putting jobs at risk; regrets that the Scottish Government's Budget chose to keep Scotland as the highest taxed part of the UK and failed to pass on business rates relief in full, hitting workers, consumers and businesses; calls on the Scottish Government to prioritise common-sense policies for economic growth that develop skills in the workforce and ensure that the tax system is competitive, efficient, simple and fair; notes that the UK Government's intervention in British Steel provides necessary support for the resilience of a strategic supply chain; recognises that the Grangemouth oil refinery is also part of a strategic supply chain that is important to both national resilience and high-quality job opportunities, and invites further consideration by both the Scottish Government and the UK Government of means to preserve this important national asset."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 30, Against 84 (including 2 proxies), Abstentions 5).

Daniel Johnson moved amendment S6M-17352.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-17352 in the name of Kate Forbes (Supporting Scottish Industry During Turbulent Economic Times), leave out from “, and believes” to end and insert “; further welcomes the swift action taken by the UK Government following the General Election 2024 in recognition of the importance of the Grangemouth oil refinery, including its support for Project Willow and the commitment of £200 million to invest in the industrial future of the site, and calls on the Scottish Government to commit to publishing a detailed timeline setting out how and when it will implement the policy and regulatory changes needed to attract investment into the technologies identified by Project Willow.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 22, Against 98 (including 2 proxies), Abstentions 0).

Lorna Slater moved amendment S6M-17352.4—

As an amendment to motion S6M-17352 in the name of Kate Forbes (Supporting Scottish Industry During Turbulent Economic Times), leave out from “the Grangemouth” to end and insert “Grangemouth as it transitions to supporting Scotland's journey to a low-carbon economy, protecting the jobs of the highly-skilled workers at the site, and demonstrating how Scotland's industrial sites can implement the recommendations of the Climate Change Committee, in the understanding that a just transition requires substantial public funding and support that private, profit-driven owners of energy infrastructure cannot be trusted to provide.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 7, Against 111 (including 2 proxies), Abstentions 0).

Jamie Greene moved amendment S6M-17352.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-17352 in the name of Kate Forbes (Supporting Scottish Industry During Turbulent Economic Times), insert at end “; notes that over many years, several industrial interventions have been made by the Scottish Government necessitating significant public funding, as seen at Prestwick Airport, Ferguson Marine, the steelworks at Dalzell, the Bifab fabrication yards and the Alvance smelter at Lochaber, which have resulted in hundreds of millions of pounds of written-off loans and cash injections, unclear futures for many of these businesses and a perennial struggle to return the businesses into private commercial ownership; regrets that there appears not to exist any long-term wider industrial strategy in Scotland, and believes that, where and when the Scottish Government intervenes in business in future, it should adopt a proactive, not reactive, approach to industrial interventions that ensures value for public money and robust exit strategies are prime considerations.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 34, Against 86 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 103 (including 2 proxies), Against 17, Abstentions 0).

4. Revision to Business: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-17398—That the Parliament agrees to the following revisions to the programme of business for Wednesday 30 April 2025—

after

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

insert

followed by Ministerial Statement: The Cessation of Refining at Grangemouth

delete

5.10 pm Decision Time

and insert

5.40 pm Decision Time

The motion was agreed to.

5. Committee Membership: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-17373—That the Parliament agrees that Mark Ruskell be appointed to replace Ariane Burgess as a member of the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

6. Substitution on Committees: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-17374— That the Parliament agrees that Ariane Burgess be appointed to replace Mark Ruskell as the Scottish Green Party substitute on the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

7. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 3, 5 and 5 as noted above.

8. Testicular Cancer Awareness Month: The Parliament debated S6M-16803 in the name of Marie McNair—That the Parliament recognises Testicular Cancer Awareness Month, which runs throughout the month of April 2025; notes that this takes place to raise awareness about testicular cancer and educate people about early detection and treatment; understands that this disease most commonly affects people aged between 15 and 45, and that, if detected early, testicular cancer has more than a 95% cure rate; further understands that approximately 220 people in Scotland are diagnosed each year, with the most common symptoms being a lump or swelling in a testicle, or dull ache, pain or heaviness in the scrotum; recognises what it sees as the importance of this month in raising awareness of the symptoms, tackle common myths and encourage self-checking; commends the tireless work done by Scotland's only dedicated testicular cancer charity, Cahonas Scotland, based in Clydebank, and thanks it for the significant work that it has done to raise awareness, from its "Check Yer Bawballs" campaign, which garnered significant media attention, to its educational talks and free resources, and for its work supporting men beyond diagnosis with cancer care packs, a podcast and peer support programme, and hopes for a productive and successful Testicular Cancer Awareness Month.

The meeting closed at 5.58 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
29 April 2025

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

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 29 April 2025—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 28th Report, 2025 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation Considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 29 April 2025 (SP Paper 773)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 27th Report, 2025 (Session 6): Legislative Consent Memorandum: delegated powers relevant to Scotland in the Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Bill (SP Paper 775)

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 25 April 2025 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Town and Country Planning (Marine Fish Farming) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2025 [draft]
laid under section 275(5A) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997

Negative Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 28 April 2025 and are subject to the negative procedure—

Town and Country Planning (Fees for Appeals) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/124)
laid under section 275 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997

Town and Country Planning (Fees for Applications) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/125)
laid under section 275 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997

Town and Country Planning (Fees for Local Reviews) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/126)
laid under section 275 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997

Laid Only Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 25 April 2025 and is not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Social Security (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 2025 (Commencement No. 1 and Saving and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/119 (C. 13))
laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform
(Scotland) Act 2010

Other Documents

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 25 April 2025 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Scottish Legal Complaints Commission Budget 01 July 2025 – 30 June 2026 (SLCC/2025/01) laid under section 29(10) of the Legal Profession and Legal Aid (Scotland) Act 2007

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