



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 60, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 11 December 2025

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

The meeting opened at 11.40 am.

1. General Questions: Questions were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.

2. First Minister's Questions: Questions were answered by the First Minister (John Swinney).

3. Welcoming the Report by Royal College of Psychiatrists on Support for Neurodevelopmental Conditions: The Parliament debated S6M-19319 in the name of Daniel Johnson—That the Parliament welcomes the publication of the report by the Royal College of Psychiatrists in Scotland, Multi-system solutions for meeting the needs of autistic people and people with ADHD in Scotland; notes the reported unprecedented increase in the number of people across Scotland, including in Edinburgh, seeking support for neurodevelopmental conditions (NDCs), particularly attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and autism; understands that, as of March 2025, over 42,000 children and 23,000 adults were waiting for a neurodevelopmental assessment, and that this represents an increase of over 500% for children and 2,200% for adults since 2020; further understands that there is currently no standardised national pathway for diagnosis, treatment and support for NDCs, and that in the absence of appropriate services, individuals are being referred into general mental health pathways, not because they have a mental illness, but because there is nowhere else for them to go; believes that this is placing unsustainable pressure on Scotland's mental health system; further believes that timely diagnosis and intervention for ADHD and autism can significantly improve quality of life, reduce suicide risk and prevent secondary mental illnesses;

commends the work of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in Scotland in developing a comprehensive, value-based framework to address these challenges, and notes the view that simply expanding existing structures is not a sustainable solution, and that a multi-system and society-wide response is needed.

4. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Climate Action and Energy, and Transport were answered by Cabinet Secretaries.

5. Ministerial Statement: The Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Energy (Gillian Martin) made a statement and answered questions on Progressing a Just Transition at Grangemouth.

6. British Sign Language (Scotland) Act 2015 Inquiry: Karen Adam, on behalf of the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee, moved S6M-20059—That the Parliament notes the findings and recommendations in the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee's 4th Report, 2025 (Session 6), Report on British Sign Language (Scotland) Act 2015 (SP Paper 872).

The motion was agreed to (DT).

7. Children (Withdrawal from Religious Education and Amendment of UNCRC Compatibility Duty) (Scotland) Bill: Financial Resolution: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills (Jenny Gilruth) moved S6M-20099—That the Parliament, for the purposes of any Act of the Scottish Parliament resulting from the Children (Withdrawal from Religious Education and Amendment of UNCRC Compatibility Duty) (Scotland) Bill, agrees to any expenditure of a kind referred to in Rule 9.12.3A of the Parliament's Standing Orders arising in consequence of the Act.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 79 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 27, Abstentions 0).

8. 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 4.53pm.

The motion was agreed to.

9. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 6 and 7 as noted above.

The meeting closed at 5.01 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
11 December 2025

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

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 11 December 2025—

Finance and Public Administration Committee, 13th Report, 2025 (Session 6):
Stage 1 Report on the Building Safety Levy (Scotland) Bill (SP Paper 929)

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee, 11th Report, 2025 (Session 6): The
Food Safety Act 1990 Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2026 [draft] (SP
Paper 934)

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was withdrawn on 11 December 2025—

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme (Amendment) Order 2026 [draft]

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 11 December 2025 and
is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Animal Health (Fixed Penalty Notices) (Scotland) Regulations 2026 [draft]
laid under section 76A(9) of the Animal Health Act 1981

Laid Only Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 11 December 2025 and
is not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Victims, Witnesses, and Justice Reform (Scotland) Act 2025 (Commencement No. 1
and Transitional Provision) Regulations 2025 SSI 2025/393 (C. 32)
laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform
(Scotland) Act 2010

Legislative Consent Memorandum

The following memorandum was lodged on 11 December 2025—

Angela Constance, Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs:
Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Northern Ireland Troubles Bill (UK
Parliament legislation) (LCM-S6-68)

Other Documents

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 11 December 2025
and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**ILF Scotland Annual Report and Financial Statements Year Ended 31
March 2025 (SG/2025/255)** laid under section 22(5) of the Public Finance and
Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

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