



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 15, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 12 June 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 a Minister.

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

**3. Justice for the Fornethy Survivors:** The Parliament debated S6M-15136 in the name of Colin Smyth—That the Parliament commends what it sees as the bravery and determination of the group, Fornethy Survivors, which continues in what it considers its fight for justice for the reported hundreds of women who experienced appalling physical, psychological and, in some cases, sexual abuse as young girls while they resided at Fornethy Residential School, in Angus, between 1960 and the 1990s; understands that Fornethy was reportedly one of a small number of schools run by Glasgow Corporation, and later by Strathclyde Regional Council, under its “scheme of residential education”, and that the scheme began in 1945 with the approval of the then Secretary of State; notes the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee's recommendation that the Scottish Government should consult on expanding Scotland's Redress Scheme to include residential institutions, such as Fornethy, that were owned and operated by public bodies, regardless of how long children stayed in those institutions; acknowledges the reported difficulties that the survivors have had in obtaining personal records that were held by the owners of Fornethy House at the time, which were Glasgow Corporation and Strathclyde Regional Council; understands that, in March 2024, the former Deputy First Minister, Shona Robison, told the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee that

she did not intend to change the eligibility criteria for Scotland's Redress Scheme, and that part of the rationale for this was that “the absence of records means that, even if the eligibility criteria were to be changed, Fornethy survivors are unlikely to meet the evidential requirements of the scheme”; considers, however, that this did not align with the committee's understanding of Redress Scotland's evidence to it that panel members tasked with determining applications for redress work from a presumption of truth, and that there is provision in the statutory guidance for discretion to be used where records are missing or limited, with applications considered on their individual merit; recognises that it has been reported that over 200 women from different parts of the country, particularly in the Glasgow area but also including the South Scotland region, have come forward to tell of the abuse that they suffered, and understands that the Fornethy survivors are seeking compensation in recognition of this abuse, and also answers to why the abuse at Fornethy reportedly continued over so many years, as well as a meaningful public apology.

**4. Portfolio Questions:** Questions on Net Zero and Energy, and Transport were answered by Ministers.

**5. Ministerial Statement:** The Minister for Climate Action (Alasdair Allan) made a statement and answered questions on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Statistics 2023.

**6. A Migration System that Works for Scotland:** The Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic (Kate Forbes) moved S6M-17906—That the Parliament recognises the contribution to Scotland's communities, public services and economy by those who have chosen to migrate to Scotland and build their lives here; notes that stakeholders from multiple sectors across Scotland have expressed significant concerns with the UK Government's immigration white paper, and that proposals submitted by the Scottish Government to the Home Office were not included in the published paper; further notes that the Parliament has previously endorsed a motion calling for the development of a differentiated, more flexible migration policy, tailored to meet Scotland's specific needs; calls on the UK Government to engage with Scottish Government officials urgently to ensure that the needs of Scotland's businesses, public services and communities are supported, rather than harmed, by the reforms outlined in the UK immigration white paper, and further calls on the UK Government to ensure that a new youth mobility scheme is designed, with engagement from young people across the UK nations, to be as broad and inclusive as possible, restoring the greatest freedom of movement for young people as can be agreed with the EU.

Liz Smith moved amendment S6M-17906.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-17906 in the name of Kate Forbes (A Migration System that Works for Scotland), leave out from first “notes” to end and insert “believes that there is an important policy balance to be struck between welcoming those migrants who make significant contributions to the economic, social and cultural life of the UK, and reducing the numbers of illegal migrants who place added pressures on the welfare system and public services, and believes that the future of migration policy across the UK should reflect the specific needs of different sectors of the labour market.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 24, Against 84 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

Michael Marra moved amendment S6M-17906.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-17906 in the name of Kate Forbes (A Migration System that Works for Scotland), leave out from first “notes” to end and insert “supports the move towards a more sustainable immigration system for the whole of the UK; regrets that the care sector has become overly dependent on low wages and exploitative working practices for migrants; believes that Scotland's stagnant economy cannot be fixed through migration alone; calls on the Scottish Government to grow the workforce through using its devolved powers to build more housing, strengthen public transport, increase pay for social care work and incentivise skills development, and welcomes the UK Government's deal with the EU, which includes increased trade, negotiation to rejoin Erasmus+ and co-operation on a youth experience scheme.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 19, Against 62 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 27).

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 67 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 42, Abstentions 0).

**7. Decision Time:** The Parliament took a decision on item 6 as noted above.

The meeting closed at 5.10 pm.

**David McGill**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
12 June 2025

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

**Committee Reports**

The following report was published on 12 June 2025—

Finance and Public Administration Committee, 7th Report, 2025 (Session 6):  
Annual Report of the Finance and Public Administration Committee 2024-25  
(SP Paper 823)

**Subordinate Legislation**

**Laid Only Instruments**

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 12 June 2025 and are not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Police (Ethics, Conduct and Scrutiny) (Scotland) Act 2025 (Commencement No. 1)  
Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/175 (C. 18))  
laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform  
(Scotland) Act 2010

Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (Scotland) Amendment Order 2025 (SSI 2025/176)  
laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform  
(Scotland) Act 2010

**Legislative Consent Memorandum**

The following memorandums were lodged on 12 June 2025—

Angela Constance, Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs:  
Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Crime and Policing  
Bill (UK Parliament legislation) (LCM-S6-57a)

Shona Robison, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government:  
Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Absent Voting (Elections in  
Scotland and Wales) Bill (UK Parliament legislation) (LCM-S6-59)

Jenny Gilruth, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills: Legislative Consent  
Memorandum on the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill (UK Parliament  
legislation) (LCM-S6-60)

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