



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 105, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 1 May 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. World Asthma Day 2025: The Parliament debated S6M-17073 in the name of Emma Harper—That the Parliament welcomes World Asthma Day 2025, which takes place on 6 May; recognises that the theme for World Asthma Day 2025 is “Make Inhaled Treatments Accessible for ALL”, which is set by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA); understands that around 360,000 people are living with asthma in Scotland, including 72,000 children, and that it is the most common respiratory condition impacting people of all ages; notes the support for efforts to improve asthma diagnosis and treatment, including receiving the basic elements of asthma care, which are an annual review, inhaler technique check and written action plan; regrets, however, that only 24% of people with asthma reported receiving all three basic elements, according to Asthma + Lung UK's Life with a Lung Condition survey; notes that new asthma guidelines were launched in 2024 by the Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN), National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) and British Thoracic Society (BTS); understands that 2023 saw the highest number of asthma deaths recorded in Scotland in over 30 years, and notes the support for the campaigns and advocacy from charities such as Asthma + Lung UK Scotland to improve asthma prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care across the country, including in the South Scotland region.

4. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Net Zero and Energy, and Transport were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and a Minister.

5. Scotland's Hydrogen Future: The Acting Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy (Gillian Martin) moved S6M-17399—That the Parliament acknowledges that Scotland has the potential to be a leading hydrogen nation and is fully committed to helping the Scottish hydrogen sector to develop and grow as part of a wider European and international network; notes that, following the successful shortlisting of Scottish projects in the recent UK Hydrogen Allocation Round, Scotland is creating a hydrogen economy that will provide economic benefit and a renewable and low-carbon source of energy to help meet its net zero ambitions; supports efforts to ensure that hydrogen is supported via continued investment, and calls on the Scottish Government to continue taking steps to deliver the hydrogen sector export plan.

Graham Simpson moved amendment S6M-17399.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-17399 in the name of Gillian Martin (Scotland's Hydrogen Future), insert at end “, and further calls on the Scottish Government to work with the UK Government on developing plans for hydrogen to be part of Scotland's energy mix, and to set out how it can play a role in transport and heating.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 34, Against 67 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 17).

Sarah Boyack moved amendment S6M-17399.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-17399 in the name of Gillian Martin (Scotland's Hydrogen Future), insert at end “; further calls on the Scottish Government to ensure that clear, strategic plans for hydrogen infrastructure are included in its long-awaited energy strategy, and calls on the Scottish Government to deliver joined-up thinking on how to maximise the low-carbon opportunities and efficient usage of hydrogen.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 51, Against 62 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 6).

Patrick Harvie moved amendment S6M-17399.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-17399 in the name of Gillian Martin (Scotland's Hydrogen Future), leave out from “be a leading” to end and insert “play a leading role in developing a green hydrogen industry, both to help decarbonise challenging sectors of the economy, and for export; recognises that hydrogen produced from fossil fuels not only produces greenhouse gas emissions but also risks undermining confidence in the future of the green hydrogen sector; further recognises that the use of green hydrogen needs to be prioritised in areas that are hard to decarbonise in other ways, and that its use for domestic heating can never achieve the efficiency of other clean heat sources, and therefore regrets that the First Minister described hydrogen for

domestic heating as 'the path that we must take', in February 2025; recognises that the UK Climate Change Committee sees 'no role for hydrogen in buildings heating and only a very niche, if any, role in surface transport', and urges the Scottish Government to accept that the value of green hydrogen will be in areas such as hard-to-decarbonise industrial sectors and energy storage."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 6, Against 97 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 17).

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 113 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 6, Abstentions 0).

6. Decision Time: The Parliament took a decision on item 5 as noted above.

The meeting closed at 5.11 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
1 May 2025

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

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 1 May 2025 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Regional Strategic Bodies and Regional Colleges (Glasgow and Lanarkshire) Order 2025 [draft]

laid under section 60(2B) of the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 1992 and section 34(4)(bc) of the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 2005

Negative Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 1 May 2025 and are subject to the negative procedure—

Education (Fees and Student Support) (Miscellaneous Amendment and Revocation) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/136)

laid under section 1 of the Education (Fees and Awards) Act 1983 and section 133(2) of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980

Public Service Vehicles (Registration of Local Services) (Local Services Franchises Transitional Provisions) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/137)

laid under section 13T of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2001

Other Documents

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 1 May 2025 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Final Outturn Report for the Scottish Budget 2023-2024 (SG/2025/84) laid under Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000 - Section 20 subsection 6

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