



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 2, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 14 May 2025

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Constitution, External Affairs and Culture, and Parliamentary Business, and then on Justice and Home Affairs, were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and a Minister.

2. Ministerial Statement: The Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport (Maree Todd) made a statement and answered questions on Impact of UK Government Decisions on Scotland's Social Care Sector.

3. Review of Additional Support for Learning and Implementation of Mainstreaming: Miles Briggs moved S6M-17524—That the Parliament notes the Audit Scotland report calling for a fundamental review of planning and resourcing of additional support for learning in Scotland; recognises concerns over declining numbers of additional support workers and classroom assistants; highlights the need to understand the rise in pupils with additional support needs to better target resources and training; calls on the Scottish Government and local authorities to deliver a new model of support alongside the NHS Education for Scotland trauma-informed practice training on neurodivergence and autism; expresses concern over changes to attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and autism diagnosis pathways removing children from child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) support without suitable alternatives, and calls on the Scottish Ministers to undertake a national review into the implementation of mainstreaming policy and the availability of specialist additional school places across local authorities.

The Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport (Maree Todd) moved amendment S6M-17524.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-17524 in the name of Miles Briggs (Review of Additional Support for Learning and Implementation of Mainstreaming), insert at end “; agrees that all children and young people should receive the help that they need to thrive, and thanks Scotland’s hard-working teachers, support staff and the wider education workforce for all that they do every day to support pupils.”

After debate, the amendment was agreed to (DT).

Pam Duncan-Glancy moved amendment S6M-17524.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-17524 in the name of Miles Briggs (Review of Additional Support for Learning and Implementation of Mainstreaming), insert at end “; notes that the Scottish Parliament’s Education, Children and Young People Committee found that the ‘overwhelming view’ of evidence was that ‘the principle of the presumption of mainstreaming is laudable and should be supported’ but that the gap between the policy intention and its implementation is ‘intolerable’ and must be addressed; believes that parents and carers of young people with additional support needs (ASN) should not have to fight for everything that their child needs; regrets that, years on from the Morgan Review, there has not been enough progress; believes that teacher workload and the lack of availability of other support services and staff that young people with ASN need have contributed to a system that is overstretched, and calls on the Scottish Ministers to urgently bring forward a comprehensive strategy to increase the ASN and pastoral care workforce, restore access to vital support services, and create a specific ASN parents forum to feed directly into policy.”

After debate, the amendment was agreed to (DT).

The motion, as amended, was agreed to (DT).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament notes the Audit Scotland report calling for a fundamental review of planning and resourcing of additional support for learning in Scotland; recognises concerns over declining numbers of additional support workers and classroom assistants; highlights the need to understand the rise in pupils with additional support needs to better target resources and training; calls on the Scottish Government and local authorities to deliver a new model of support alongside the NHS Education for Scotland trauma-informed practice training on neurodivergence and autism; expresses concern over changes to attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and autism diagnosis pathways removing children from child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) support without suitable alternatives; calls on the Scottish Ministers to undertake a national review into the implementation of mainstreaming policy and the availability of specialist additional school places

across local authorities; agrees that all children and young people should receive the help that they need to thrive; thanks Scotland's hard-working teachers, support staff and the wider education workforce for all that they do every day to support pupils; notes that the Scottish Parliament's Education, Children and Young People Committee found that the 'overwhelming view' of evidence was that 'the principle of the presumption of mainstreaming is laudable and should be supported' but that the gap between the policy intention and its implementation is 'intolerable' and must be addressed; believes that parents and carers of young people with additional support needs (ASN) should not have to fight for everything that their child needs; regrets that, years on from the Morgan Review, there has not been enough progress; believes that teacher workload and the lack of availability of other support services and staff that young people with ASN need have contributed to a system that is overstretched, and calls on the Scottish Ministers to urgently bring forward a comprehensive strategy to increase the ASN and pastoral care workforce, restore access to vital support services, and create a specific ASN parents forum to feed directly into policy.

4. Protecting Scotland's Oil and Gas Industry: Douglas Lumsden moved S6M-17525—That the Parliament recognises the importance of reducing emissions in a way that is credible, costed and publicly supported; regrets the absence of a clear, deliverable plan for achieving net zero, particularly in relation to the future of Scotland's energy sector and industrial base; condemns the Scottish and UK governments' ideological opposition to oil and gas, nuclear power and a balanced energy policy; calls on the UK Government to end its policy of issuing no new oil and gas licences; notes with deep concern the economic and employment impacts of the closure of the Grangemouth refinery and recent job losses at Harbour Energy in Aberdeen; further notes that the increase and extension of the UK Government's Energy Profits Levy has had a damaging effect on investment in the North Sea; argues that current Scottish Government policy on nuclear, oil and gas is having a detrimental effect on energy prices and energy security; points out that Great British Energy is a gimmick that will do nothing to bring down bills, and condemns the explosion of electricity infrastructure across the Scottish countryside, and calls on the Scottish Government to adopt a pragmatic, pro-growth energy strategy that supports the workforce, secures investment, delivers affordability and ensures energy reliability and national competitiveness for the future.

The Acting Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy (Gillian Martin) moved amendment S6M-17525.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-17525 in the name of Douglas Lumsden (Protecting Scotland's Oil and Gas Industry), leave out from "regrets" to end and insert "notes with deep concern the economic and employment impacts of the closure of the Grangemouth refinery and recent job losses at Harbour Energy in Aberdeen; further notes that the increase and extension of the UK Government's Energy Profits Levy, by the previous and current UK administrations, has had a damaging effect on North Sea investment, including on the transition; believes that a just transition must support workers and that the transition to net zero must deliver tangible benefits for consumers, communities and the wider economy; argues that the voice of

communities must be heard in this process; condemns the anti-climate rhetoric of the Conservative Party, which ignores the reality of the impacts of climate change, and calls on the UK Government to fully fund and support the Acorn/Scottish Cluster carbon capture project and demonstrate that, unlike the previous UK administration, it supports this vital scheme for jobs in Grangemouth and the north east of Scotland.”

Michael Marra moved amendment S6M-17525.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-17525 in the name of Douglas Lumsden (Protecting Scotland’s Oil and Gas Industry), leave out from first “condemns” to end and insert “recognises the UK Government’s commitment to a sustainable long-term energy mix, including increased renewable sources, new modern nuclear generation as well as continued oil and gas production for decades to come; notes the loss of jobs at Grangemouth and recently announced job losses at Harbour Energy, which re-emphasise the need for a just transition plan including the immediate publication of the long-delayed Scottish energy strategy; commends the creation of Great British Energy as a publicly owned energy generation company, headquartered in Aberdeen, which will help to deliver energy security, build supply chains, create thousands of jobs across the country and reduce energy bills over the long term; welcomes the £200 million of funding committed to the Grangemouth transition as part of a clean energy future to power Scotland’s economy and communities, and calls on the Scottish National Party administration to drop its ideological opposition to nuclear power.”

After debate, amendment S6M-17525.3 was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 61 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 56, Abstentions 0). As a result, amendment S6M-17525.1 was pre-empted.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 61 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 55, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament recognises the importance of reducing emissions in a way that is credible, costed and publicly supported; notes with deep concern the economic and employment impacts of the closure of the Grangemouth refinery and recent job losses at Harbour Energy in Aberdeen; further notes that the increase and extension of the UK Government’s Energy Profits Levy, by the previous and current UK administrations, has had a damaging effect on North Sea investment, including on the transition; believes that a just transition must support workers and that the transition to net zero must deliver tangible benefits for consumers, communities and the wider economy; argues that the voice of communities must be heard in this process; condemns the anti-climate rhetoric of the Conservative Party, which ignores the reality of the impacts of climate change, and calls on the UK Government to fully fund and support the Acorn/Scottish Cluster carbon capture project and demonstrate that, unlike the previous UK administration, it supports this vital scheme for jobs in Grangemouth and the north east of Scotland.

5. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-17531—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 20 May 2025

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Ministerial Statement: Climate Change Plan Monitoring Report 2025

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Regulation of Legal Services (Scotland) Bill

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

6.30 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 21 May 2025

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

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

followed by Ministerial Statement: Proposed Grangemouth Flood Protection Scheme

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Empowering Scotland's Island Communities

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Approval of SSIs (if required)

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 22 May 2025

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

followed by Members' Business

2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.30 pm Portfolio Questions: Net Zero and Energy, and Transport

followed by Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee Debate: Committee Effectiveness Inquiry

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 27 May 2025

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Scottish Government Business

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 28 May 2025

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands: Health and Social Care

followed by Scottish Liberal Democrats Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Approval of SSIs (if required)

5.10 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 29 May 2025

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

followed by Members' Business

2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.30 pm Portfolio Questions: Social Justice

followed by Scottish Government Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

(b) that, for the purposes of Portfolio Questions in the week beginning 19 May 2025, in rule 13.7.3, after the word "except" the words "to the extent to which the Presiding

Officer considers that the questions are on the same or similar subject matter or” are inserted.

The motion was agreed to.

6. Stage 1 Timetable: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-17532—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Scottish Parliament (Recall and Removal of Members) Bill at stage 1 be completed by 7 November 2025.

The motion was agreed to.

7. Stage 1 Timetable: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-17533—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the UEFA European Championship (Scotland) Bill at stage 1 be completed by 14 November 2025.

The motion was agreed to.

8. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-17534—That the Parliament agrees that the Land and Buildings Transaction Tax (Group Relief and Sub-sale Development Relief Modifications) (Scotland) Order 2025 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

9. Designation of Lead Committee: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-17535—That the Parliament agrees that the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the supplementary legislative consent memorandum on the Employment Rights Bill.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

10. Urgent Question: An urgent question, to ask the Scottish Government, for what reason the MV Glen Rosa will now not be delivered until the second quarter of 2026, with costs estimated to increase by up to £35 million, was answered by the Deputy First Minister (Kate Forbes).

11. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 3, 4, 8 and 9 as noted above.

12. Conservation Society Publishes 2024 State of our Beaches Report: The Parliament debated S6M-16920 in the name of Kenneth Gibson—That the Parliament welcomes the publication of the Marine Conservation Society 2024 report, State of our Beaches, which compiles data gathered through the organisation’s year-round citizen science initiative, Beachwatch; acknowledges that Beachwatch was launched in 1994; believes that it provides one of the most detailed datasets on marine litter across the whole of the UK; applauds the 4,000 volunteers who attended beach cleans across Scotland in 2024, including in the Cunninghame North constituency, which represents a 25% increase in volunteers compared to

2023; notes that they removed over 10,000 kg of litter from Scotland's beaches in 2024, consisting of around 527,000 separate items; expresses concern that, on average, 204 items of litter were found for every 100 metres across Scotland's beaches, which represents a 7.2% increase on 2023 and is higher than the UK-wide average of 170 items per 100 metres; understands that 22,000 wet wipes were found on Scotland's beaches in 2024, and that drinks-related litter was recorded on 95% of surveyed beaches; acknowledges that marine litter not only harms what it sees as Scotland's beautiful coastline, but can also damage marine habitats; notes the view that reducing marine litter will require not only behavioural changes, but also a range of policy changes, including the introduction of circular economy measures and the phasing-out of single-use plastic items, and further notes calls for the Scottish Government to continue its work alongside key stakeholders to drive down marine litter across Scotland's beaches.

The meeting closed at 6.50 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
14 May 2025

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

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 14 May 2025—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 31st Report, 2025 (Session 6): Delegated powers in the Tertiary Education and Training (Funding and Governance) (Scotland) Bill at Stage 1 (SP Paper 784)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 32nd Report, 2025 (Session 6): Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum: delegated powers exercisable within devolved competence in the Employment Rights Bill (SP Paper 785)

The following reports will be published on 15 May 2025—

Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee, 10th Report, 2025 (Session 6): Housing Inquiry (SP Paper 780)

Education, Children and Young People Committee, 5th Report, 2025 (Session 6): Widening access to higher education inquiry (SP Paper 782)

Other Documents

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 14 May 2025 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Scottish National Investment Bank performance audit - A report prepared for the Auditor General for Scotland (AGS/2025/4) laid under the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

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