



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 3, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 15 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. Addressing the Impact of Second Home Ownership in Scotland: The Parliament debated S6M-17422 in the name of Ross Greer—That the Parliament is concerned about the reported impact of the expansion of second home ownership on communities across Scotland; believes that the impact of second home ownership is felt more keenly in some communities than in others, including in areas of natural beauty; notes with concern reports that, in Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park, 5% of all houses are second homes or holiday lets, compared with 1% nationally, and that the figure is 12% in the Cairngorms National Park, rising to 20% in areas such as parts of Badenoch and Strathspey, that they account for over one third in Lochranza, on the Isle of Arran, and that in Coigach almost half of all homes are second homes or holiday lets; considers that recent changes to the additional dwelling supplement (ADS) and council tax have contributed to a reduction in second home purchases, with 2,455 fewer second homes bought in 2024 than in 2023; understands that the increased rate of ADS alone is expected to raise more than a quarter of a billion of pounds for public services, including the provision of affordable housing in 2025-26, and notes the view that further targeted measures, including potential tax reforms, should be considered to rebalance primary and second home ownership levels in communities where the housing crisis is particularly acute.

4. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Education and Skills were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and Ministers.

5. Ministerial Statement: The Minister for Children and Young People of Scotland (Natalie Don-Innes) made a statement and answered questions on Secure Care and the Wider Care System.

6. Scotland in Today's Europe: The Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture (Angus Robertson) moved S6M-17539—That the Parliament agrees that the best relationship that Scotland and the UK can have with the EU is to be a member of the EU; calls on the UK Government to drop its red lines on the single market, customs union and freedom of movement; further calls on the UK Government, at its forthcoming summit with the EU, as a first step, to negotiate an ambitious veterinary, food and drink agreement, closer energy and climate co-operation, greater freedom of movement, including opportunities for young people, and further measures to lessen the ongoing economic, social and cultural damage of Brexit, and believes that it is unacceptable that the UK Government has not shared any draft summit texts with the Scottish or other devolved governments.

Stephen Kerr moved amendment S6M-17539.4—

As an amendment to motion S6M-17539 in the name of Angus Robertson (Scotland in Today's Europe), leave out from "agrees" to end and insert "recognises that foreign affairs, including the country's relationship with the EU, trade and immigration are reserved matters, and calls on the Scottish Government to dedicate more parliamentary time towards tackling the issues that matter to most people in Scotland, such as improving NHS waiting times, raising Scotland's falling attainment standards, addressing school violence and bringing down bills for taxpayers."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 27, Against 87 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

Neil Bibby moved amendment S6M-17539.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-17539 in the name of Angus Robertson (Scotland in Today's Europe), leave out from "agrees" to end and insert "welcomes the UK Government resetting the UK's relationship with the EU following the chaotic and damaging approach of the previous UK Conservative administration; further welcomes the summit to be held on 19 May 2025; welcomes the commitment by the UK Government to create a strategic partnership between the UK and the EU to agree a path forward on trade, security and defence; believes that economic growth, raising living standards and defence and security must be the highest of priorities for the Scottish and UK governments; welcomes the UK Government's specific commitment to negotiate a sanitary and phytosanitary veterinary agreement so that agricultural products, food and drink can be traded more cheaply between the EU and the UK, which could boost agri-food exports to the EU by up to 22.5%; further welcomes the commitment by the Prime Minister to improve security co-operation with the EU and to increase defence spending to 2.5% of GDP from April 2027, which will

benefit jobs and industries in Scotland; welcomes the UK Government's newly negotiated trade deals with the United States and India, noting the importance of the latter for Scotland's whisky industry; calls on the Scottish Government to support the UK Government's efforts to rebuild the relationship with European friends and neighbours, and further calls on the Scottish Government to set out what actions it will take to improve economic growth and living standards in Scotland, including whether its public procurement processes will emulate those in other European countries in driving place-based industrial development, using the powers that it has and the record funding settlement that it has received from the UK Government of £47.7 billion this financial year."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 15, Against 96 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 3).

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 70 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 45, Abstentions 0).

7. Appointment of the Patient Safety Commissioner for Scotland: Paul Sweeney, on behalf of the Selection Panel, moved S6M-17485—That the Parliament nominates Karen Titchener to His Majesty The King for appointment as the Patient Safety Commissioner for Scotland under schedule 1 paragraph 4 of the Patient Safety Commissioner for Scotland Act 2023.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

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

The meeting closed at 5.09 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
15 May 2025

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 15 May 2025—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 33rd Report, 2025 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation Considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 13 May 2025 (SP Paper 786)

The following report will be published on 16 May 2025—

Public Audit Committee, 1st Report, 2025 (Session 6): The 2022/23 and 2023/24 audits of the Water Industry Commission for Scotland (SP Paper 783)

Subordinate Legislation

Negative Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 15 May 2025 and are subject to the negative procedure—

Education (Appeal Committee Procedures) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/144)

laid under section 133(2) of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 and section 34 of the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004

Bankruptcy and Diligence (Scotland) Act 2024 (Consequential Amendments and Forms) Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/145)

laid under section 225(3) of the Bankruptcy (Scotland) Act 2016 and section 21(3)(b) of the Bankruptcy and Diligence (Scotland) Act 2024

Valuation (Proposals Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/146)

laid under section 3ZA(7) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1975

Health Boards (Membership and Procedure) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/147)

laid under section 105(2) of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978

Road Traffic (Permitted Parking Area and Special Parking Area) (Highland Council) Designation Amendment Order 2025 (SSI 2025/148)

laid under paragraph 4 of schedule 3 of the Road Traffic Act 1991

Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/149)

laid under section 24(2) of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013

Other Documents

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 15 May 2025 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Report to the Scottish Parliament in respect of changes to the Firefighters Pension Scheme (Scotland) 2015: SG/2025/100 laid under section 22 of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013

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