



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 4, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 20 May 2025

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Time for Reflection: Pastor Paul Coventry, Greenock Baptist Church, led Time for Reflection.

2. Revision to Business: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-17606—That the Parliament agrees to the following revisions to the programme of business—

(a) Tuesday 20 May 2025—

after

followed by Topical Questions

insert

followed by Ministerial Statement: Scottish Government Response to the Outcome of the EU-UK Summit on 19 May

delete

6.30 pm Decision Time

and insert

6.00 pm Decision Time

(b) Thursday 22 May 2025—

delete

2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

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

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

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

followed by Ministerial Statement: Response to the Housing Emergency

The motion was agreed to.

3. Topical Questions: Questions were answered by a Minister.

4. Ministerial Statement: The Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture (Angus Robertson) made a statement and answered questions on Scottish Government Response to the Outcome of the EU-UK Summit on 19 May.

5. Ministerial Statement: The Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy (Gillian Martin) made a statement and answered questions on Climate Change Plan Monitoring Report 2025.

6. Stage 3 Timetable: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-17585—That the Parliament agrees that, during stage 3 of the Regulation of Legal Services (Scotland) Bill, debate on groups of amendments shall, subject to Rule 9.8.4A, be brought to a conclusion by the time limits indicated, those time limits being calculated from when the stage begins and excluding any periods when other business is under consideration or when a meeting of the Parliament is suspended or otherwise not in progress:

Groups 1 to 4: 45 minutes

Groups 5 to 8: 1 hour 30 minutes

Groups 9 to 13: 2 hours.

The motion was agreed to.

7. Regulation of Legal Services (Scotland) Bill- Stage 3: The Bill was considered at Stage 3.

The following amendments were agreed to (without division): 1, 2, 3, 4, 123, 126, 127, 128, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 136, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 35, 36, 37, 39, 40, 41, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 137, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78A, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 142, 90, 92, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114 and 115.

The following amendments were agreed to (by division)—

14 (For 104 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 8, Abstentions 0)
34 (For 59 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 58, Abstentions 0)
38 (For 59 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 55, Abstentions 0)

The following amendments were disagreed to (by division)—

117 (For 49, Against 71 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0)
135 (For 48, Against 67 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0)
42 (For 59 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 59, Abstentions 0) - by casting vote.)
91 (For 28, Against 87 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

The following amendment was moved and, no member having objected, withdrawn:
116.

The following amendments were not moved: 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 124, 125, 129, 138, 139, 140 and 141.

8. Regulation of Legal Services (Scotland) Bill: The Minister for Victims and Community Safety (Siobhian Brown) moved S6M-17584—That the Parliament agrees that the Regulation of Legal Services (Scotland) Bill be passed.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 88 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 26, Abstentions 0).

9. Motion Without Notice: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved without notice that, under Rule 11.2.4, Decision Time be brought forward to 5.58 pm.

The motion was agreed to

10. Decision Time: The Parliament took a decision on item 8 as noted above.

11. Radio Teleswitch Service Switch-off: The Parliament debated S6M-17484 in the name of Beatrice Wishart—That the Parliament is concerned that the Radio Teleswitch Service (RTS), used by energy suppliers for some electricity meters, particularly in island and rural areas, to control heating and hot water systems, is set to end on 30 June 2025, with tens of thousands of customers across Scotland reportedly expected to be impacted as they are yet to have their RTS meter exchanged; understands that, in areas such as the Highlands and Islands region and other parts of rural Scotland, many households are still waiting for a meter exchange and that, as of the end of April 2025, Shetland still had 4,490 meters to be exchanged ahead of the deadline; further understands that energy companies are not replacing meters at the pace required before the deadline; considers that large areas of Scotland face technical issues with connecting smart meters and a lack of engineers; notes the view that functioning heating and hot water systems are fundamental to an adequate standard of living and that changes to metering technology should not leave households, particularly those in island and rural communities, financially worse off than they are on their current tariff, or facing the possibility of losing heating and hot water after the switch-off of the RTS signal; further notes the calls on local resilience partnerships to ready themselves for the

potential adverse outcomes of the RTS switch-off, which may include thousands of homes being left without heating and hot water, and notes the calls to plug the gaps in smart meter coverage to ensure that rural areas are not disadvantaged due to their poor connectivity.

The meeting closed at 6.50 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
20 May 2025

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 16 May 2025—

Economy and Fair Work Committee, 6th Report, 2025 (Session 6): Report on the Legislative Consent Memorandum for the Employment Rights Bill (SP Paper 788)

The following report will be published on 22 May 2025—

Criminal Justice Committee, 4th Report, 2025 (Session 6): Annual Report of the Criminal Justice Committee 2024-25 (SP Paper 790)

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 16 May 2025 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Home Detention Curfew (Amendment of Specified Time Periods) (Scotland) Order 2025 [draft]

laid under section 45(3) of the Prisoners and Criminal Proceedings (Scotland) Act 1993

Negative Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 16 May 2025 and are subject to the negative procedure—

Council Tax Reduction (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) (No. 3) Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/150)

laid under section 113(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992

St Mary's Music School (Aided Places) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/151)

laid under section 133(2) of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980

Teachers' Pension Scheme (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/152)

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

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 19 May 2025 and are subject to the negative procedure—

Seed (Fees) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2025 (2025/154)

laid under section 16 of the Plant Varieties and Seeds Act 1964

Marketing of Fruit Plant and Propagating Material (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2025 (2025/155)
laid under section 16 of the Plant Varieties and Seeds Act 1964

Legislative Consent Memorandum

The following memorandum was lodged on 16 May 2025—

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

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 20 May 2025 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Climate Change Plan Update Monitoring Report 2025: Electricity (SG/2025/73)
laid under section 35(b) of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

Climate Change Plan Update Monitoring Report 2025: Buildings (SG/2025/74)
laid under section 35(b) of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

Climate Change Plan Update Monitoring Report 2025: Industry (SG/2025/76)
laid under section 35(b) of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

Climate Change Plan Update Monitoring Report 2025: LULUCF (SG/2025/78)
laid under section 35(b) of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

Climate Change Plan Update Monitoring Report 2025: NETs (SG/2025/80) laid
under section 35(b) of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

Climate Change Plan Update Monitoring Report 2025: Agriculture (SG/2025/79)
laid under section 35(b) of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

Climate Change Plan Update Monitoring Report 2025: Waste And The Circular Economy (SG/2025/77) laid under section 35(b) of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

Climate Change Plan Update Monitoring Report 2025: Transport (SG/2025/75)
laid under section 35(b) of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

Nitrogen Use Efficiency in Scotland: Annual Report 2025 (SG/2025/45) laid
under section 5(1)(c) of the Climate Change (Nitrogen Balance Sheet) (Scotland)
Regulations 2022

**Report by Dunbartonshire and Argyll & Bute Valuation Joint Board
on the number of assessors and availability of resources 2025
(DABVJB/2025/01)** laid under Section 24 of the Non-Domestic Rates (Scotland) Act
2020

Scottish Government: Ninth Annual Report on the Implementation of the Scotland Act 2016 (SG/2025/36) laid at the request of a member of the Scottish Government and not under any laying power

UK Government: Ninth Annual Report on the Implementation of the Scotland Act 2016 (SG/2025/35) laid at the request of a member of the Scottish Government and not under any laying power

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