



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 8, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 28 May 2025

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

**1. Portfolio Questions:** Questions on Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands and then Health and Social Care were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.

**2. A New Plan for Scotland's Teaching Workforce:** Willie Rennie moved S6M-17669—That the Parliament acknowledges the work carried out by Scotland's teachers in schools across the country and commends them for all they do; recognises that the subjects that they teach provide important foundations for knowledge and skills in sectors that can be vital for Scotland's economy; notes with concern, however, that there has been a sharp decline in the number of teachers in key subjects, such as maths, physics and modern languages, and that targets to train teachers in STEM subjects have been continuously missed; believes that, should these targets continue to be missed, and the decline in the number of teachers continues, it will add to the strain on the teaching workforce, Scottish education will suffer and Scotland's ability to compete globally in important sectors will be impacted; further believes that a lack of permanent contracts for teachers will further compound issues with recruitment and training; notes that there are also high levels of unemployment and underemployment of primary teachers and teachers for some secondary school subjects; further notes the failure of the Scottish Government to make sufficient progress on its 2021 commitment to recruit 3,500 more teachers, which is set to be missed by the end of the current parliamentary session in 2026, and calls, therefore, on the Scottish Government to develop a new, urgent plan for the teaching workforce, working with stakeholders.

The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills (Jenny Gilruth) moved amendment S6M-17669.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-17669 in the name of Willie Rennie (A New Plan for Scotland's Teaching Workforce), leave out from "further notes" to end and insert "recognises that local workforce planning is led by local government and must be undertaken in partnership with it; supports local authorities, as the employers of teachers, to use the significant additional funding made available, including £186.5 million in the 2025-26 Budget, to increase teacher numbers and create more permanent posts, and calls for the Scottish Government to commit to working in partnership with COSLA, through the joint education and assurance board, to develop a joint evidence-led education workforce strategy with stakeholders."

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 64 (including 3 proxy votes), Against 49, Abstentions 0).

Miles Briggs moved amendment S6M-17669.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-17669 in the name of Willie Rennie (A New Plan for Scotland's Teaching Workforce), insert at end "; continues to be concerned at the levels of violence being reported in schools, including unacceptable physical and verbal attacks and threats being experienced by teachers and the wider school community; notes the significant concerns over high levels of work-related stress being reported by teachers and the health and wellbeing of the profession; calls on the Scottish Government to bring forward a national coordinated education workforce plan, including data on additional support needs (ASN) and projections on workforce capacity for additional support workers and classroom assistants across local authorities as part of the ASN review; recognises concerns that absence cover is not being consistently applied across schools and local authorities, and supports the better provision of access to resources and training, including the delivery of a new model of support alongside the NHS Education for Scotland trauma informed practice training on neurodivergence and autism."

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

Pam Duncan-Glancy moved amendment S6M-17669.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-17669 in the name of Willie Rennie (A New Plan for Scotland's Teaching Workforce), insert at end ", and further calls on the Scottish Government to develop a consistent national system of supply to support supply teachers across local authorities, make Pupil Equity Funding permanent to empower schools to properly plan, address concerns with the teacher census to ensure that it is known where staff are and where they are needed, ensure places on teacher training are aligned to workforce planning needs, including in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects, and collect and publish data around the number of senior phase lessons being taught by non-subject specialist teachers."

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

The motion, as amended, was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 89 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 23, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament acknowledges the work carried out by Scotland's teachers in schools across the country and commends them for all they do; recognises that the subjects that they teach provide important foundations for knowledge and skills in sectors that can be vital for Scotland's economy; notes with concern, however, that there has been a sharp decline in the number of teachers in key subjects, such as maths, physics and modern languages, and that targets to train teachers in STEM subjects have been continuously missed; believes that, should these targets continue to be missed, and the decline in the number of teachers continues, it will add to the strain on the teaching workforce, Scottish education will suffer and Scotland's ability to compete globally in important sectors will be impacted; further believes that a lack of permanent contracts for teachers will further compound issues with recruitment and training; notes that there are also high levels of unemployment and underemployment of primary teachers and teachers for some secondary school subjects; recognises that local workforce planning is led by local government and must be undertaken in partnership with it; supports local authorities, as the employers of teachers, to use the significant additional funding made available, including £186.5 million in the 2025-26 Budget, to increase teacher numbers and create more permanent posts, and calls for the Scottish Government to commit to working in partnership with COSLA, through the joint education and assurance board, to develop a joint evidence-led education workforce strategy with stakeholders; continues to be concerned at the levels of violence being reported in schools, including unacceptable physical and verbal attacks and threats being experienced by teachers and the wider school community; notes the significant concerns over high levels of work-related stress being reported by teachers and the health and wellbeing of the profession; calls on the Scottish Government to bring forward a national coordinated education workforce plan, including data on additional support needs (ASN) and projections on workforce capacity for additional support workers and classroom assistants across local authorities as part of the ASN review; recognises concerns that absence cover is not being consistently applied across schools and local authorities; supports the better provision of access to resources and training, including the delivery of a new model of support alongside the NHS Education for Scotland trauma informed practice training on neurodivergence and autism, and further calls on the Scottish Government to develop a consistent national system of supply to support supply teachers across local authorities, make Pupil Equity Funding permanent to empower schools to properly plan, address concerns with the teacher census to ensure that it is known where staff are and where they are needed, ensure places on teacher training are aligned to workforce planning needs, including in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects, and collect and publish data around the number of senior phase lessons being taught by non-subject specialist teachers.

**3. Addressing the Inadequate Provision for Neurodevelopmental Conditions:** Alex Cole-Hamilton moved S6M-17670—That the Parliament

recognises the scale of the mental health emergency in Scotland; notes with concern the lack of adequate provision for neurodevelopmental conditions, particularly in the context of a sharp rise in demand for neurodiversity assessments and treatment for adults and children following the COVID-19 pandemic; further notes the additional pressure on services caused by the global shortage of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) medication, which has led to the closure of titration clinics in some areas and significantly impacted waiting times and access to care; recognises the profound distress and disruption this causes for individuals and families who are left without timely diagnosis or support; acknowledges the knock-on effects on child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS), as well as the wider economic consequences of rising levels of economic inactivity linked to unmet mental health needs; notes the pressure that this puts on GPs and primary care; further notes with concern the widespread removal of shared care arrangements where patients who obtained a private diagnosis could receive ongoing care and medication through the Scottish NHS; expresses disappointment at the Scottish Government's failure to meet its commitment to allocate 10% of NHS spending to mental health and 1% to CAMHS; calls on the Scottish Government to work urgently with NHS boards and local authorities to devise a robust protocol on the use of shared care arrangements to allow for their use where appropriate, and further calls on the Scottish Government to create neurodevelopmental pathways and stepped care models, as recommended by the National Autism Implementation Team and Royal College of Psychiatrists in the 2021 National Clinical ADHD Pathway Feasibility Study.

The Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport (Maree Todd) moved amendment S6M-17670.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-17670 in the name of Alex Cole-Hamilton (Addressing the Inadequate Provision for Neurodevelopmental Conditions), leave out from “of the mental” to end and insert “and urgency of unmet need in both mental health and neurodevelopmental support, particularly in the context of a sharp rise in demand for neurodiversity assessments and treatment for adults and children following the COVID-19 pandemic; notes the additional pressure on services caused by the global shortage of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) medication, which has led to the closure of titration clinics in some areas and significantly impacted waiting times and access to care; recognises the profound distress and disruption this causes for individuals and families who are left without timely diagnosis or support; acknowledges the knock-on effects on the health service, as well as the wider economic consequences of rising levels of economic inactivity linked to unmet neurodevelopmental and mental health needs; notes with concern the widespread removal of shared care arrangements where patients who obtained a private diagnosis could receive ongoing care and medication through the Scottish NHS; calls on the Scottish Government to work urgently with NHS boards and local authorities on their shared care arrangement protocols, but understands that decisions around the best course of treatment for patients are for individual clinicians; further calls on the Scottish Government to expand and create adult neurodevelopmental pathways and stepped care models, as recommended by the National Autism Implementation Team and Royal College of Psychiatrists in the 2021 National Clinical ADHD Pathway Feasibility Study; notes the four pilots that the

Scottish Government funded following these recommendations, the establishment of a neuro-affirming community of practice and ongoing scoping work on demand and capacity for adult neurodevelopmental services, including work with NHS boards and local authorities on local neurodevelopmental data; calls on the Scottish Government to convene a cross-party summit on addressing waits for neurodevelopmental support and mental health capacity to avert a crisis for individuals and families waiting too long; recognises the progress made towards the Scottish Government's commitment to allocate 10% of NHS spending to mental health and 1% to CAMHS by the end of the current parliamentary session, and thanks the dedicated NHS and wider workforce for its hard work in providing neurodevelopmental and mental health services in this time of increased demand."

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 65 (including 3 proxy votes), Against 49, Abstentions 0).

Sandesh Gulhane moved amendment S6M-17670.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-17670 in the name of Alex Cole-Hamilton (Addressing the Inadequate Provision for Neurodevelopmental Conditions), insert at end “; believes that years of Scottish National Party (SNP) administration mismanagement have led to over 3,000 children and young people waiting to start mental health treatment; acknowledges that the Scottish Government pledged £55.5 million in 2023-24 to improve neurodevelopmental and mental health services, but that inconsistent referral processes and widespread delays remain; recognises that some NHS boards, such as NHS Tayside, have stopped all new referrals for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and autism child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) due to increased demand for assessments; notes that children and adults alike have faced waits of up to 201 weeks for autism and ADHD assessments, with regions like Grampian and Tayside reporting delays of four years or more; understands that thousands of children last year waited for neurodevelopmental assessments, with 7,650 children in Greater Glasgow and Clyde alone waiting to be screened; agrees with the Royal College of Psychiatrists, which said that the growing demand for neurodevelopmental conditions services in Scotland poses a systemic risk to the sustainability of mental health services, and acknowledges that waiting times for neurodevelopmental assessments in Scotland are at risk of exceeding 10 years within the next few years if urgent reforms are not made by the Scottish Government.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 49, Against 66 (including 3 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

Paul Sweeney moved amendment S6M-17670.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-17670 in the name of Alex Cole-Hamilton (Addressing the Inadequate Provision for Neurodevelopmental Conditions), insert at end “, and calls on the Scottish Government to publish data on the

number of patients with neurodevelopmental conditions who are being removed from CAMHS waiting lists.”

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

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 96 (including 3 proxy votes), Against 18, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament recognises the scale and urgency of unmet need in both mental health and neurodevelopmental support, particularly in the context of a sharp rise in demand for neurodiversity assessments and treatment for adults and children following the COVID-19 pandemic; notes the additional pressure on services caused by the global shortage of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) medication, which has led to the closure of titration clinics in some areas and significantly impacted waiting times and access to care; recognises the profound distress and disruption this causes for individuals and families who are left without timely diagnosis or support; acknowledges the knock-on effects on the health service, as well as the wider economic consequences of rising levels of economic inactivity linked to unmet neurodevelopmental and mental health needs; notes with concern the widespread removal of shared care arrangements where patients who obtained a private diagnosis could receive ongoing care and medication through the Scottish NHS; calls on the Scottish Government to work urgently with NHS boards and local authorities on their shared care arrangement protocols, but understands that decisions around the best course of treatment for patients are for individual clinicians; further calls on the Scottish Government to expand and create adult neurodevelopmental pathways and stepped care models, as recommended by the National Autism Implementation Team and Royal College of Psychiatrists in the 2021 National Clinical ADHD Pathway Feasibility Study; notes the four pilots that the Scottish Government funded following these recommendations, the establishment of a neuro-affirming community of practice and ongoing scoping work on demand and capacity for adult neurodevelopmental services, including work with NHS boards and local authorities on local neurodevelopmental data; calls on the Scottish Government to convene a cross-party summit on addressing waits for neurodevelopmental support and mental health capacity to avert a crisis for individuals and families waiting too long; recognises the progress made towards the Scottish Government’s commitment to allocate 10% of NHS spending to mental health and 1% to CAMHS by the end of the current parliamentary session; thanks the dedicated NHS and wider workforce for its hard work in providing neurodevelopmental and mental health services in this time of increased demand, and calls on the Scottish Government to publish data on the number of patients with neurodevelopmental conditions who are being removed from CAMHS waiting lists.

**4. Business Programme:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-17701—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 3 June 2025

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Topical Questions (if selected)

*followed by* Ministerial Statement: A Just Transition for Aberdeen and the North East

*followed by* Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee Debate: A Blueprint for Participation - Embedding Deliberative Democracy in the Work of the Scottish Parliament

*followed by* Committee Announcements

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Wednesday 4 June 2025

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Constitution, External Affairs and Culture, and Parliamentary Business; Justice and Home Affairs; Education and Skills

*followed by* Scottish Government Debate: Empowering Entrepreneurs and Innovators

*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 5 June 2025

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

12.45 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Tuesday 10 June 2025

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Topical Questions (if selected)

*followed by* Stage 3 Proceedings: Care Reform (Scotland) Bill

*followed by* Committee Announcements

*followed by Business Motions*

*followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions*

7.00 pm Decision Time

*followed by Members' Business*

Wednesday 11 June 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 Scottish Labour Party 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 12 June 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 Scottish Government Business*

*followed by Business Motions*

*followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions*

5.0 m Decision Time

(b) that, for the purposes of Portfolio Questions in the week beginning 2 June 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.

**5. Stage 2 Extension:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-17702—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Housing (Scotland) Bill at stage 2 be extended to 6 June 2025.

The motion was agreed to.



**6. Designation of Lead Committee:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-17703—That the Parliament agrees that the Criminal Justice Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the Prostitution (Offences and Support) (Scotland) Bill at stage 1.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**7. Designation of Lead Committee:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-17704—That the Parliament agrees that the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the Desecration of War Memorials (Scotland) Bill at stage 1.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**8. Designation of Lead Committee:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-17705—That the Parliament agrees that the Social Justice and Social Security Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the Wellbeing and Sustainable Development (Scotland) Bill at stage 1.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**9. Decision Time:** The Parliament took decisions on items 2, 3, 6, 7 and 8 as noted above.

**10. Improving Access to Hearing Care for Scotland's Ageing Population:** The Parliament debated S6M-16452 in the name of Sharon Dowey—That the Parliament understands that over 900,000 adults in Scotland live with age-related hearing loss; believes that uncorrected hearing loss can have a significant impact on people, notably social isolation, mental ill health and a heightened risk of developing dementia; understands that demand for hearing care services is increasing across the country, including in Ayrshire, as a result of changing demographics; notes that the number of over 60s in Scotland is projected to increase by 50% by 2033, and that South Ayrshire is the fastest ageing local authority area; notes the view that additional capacity in NHS services is needed to ensure that people presenting with hearing loss can access quality and timely care; considers that independent providers of audiology services have the skills, IT connectivity and capacity to meet the increased demand; notes the Scottish Government's commitment to bolster community audiology provision and put community audiology services on a par with the country's free community eye care services, and further notes the view that there is an opportunity to improve dramatically access to hearing care services by replicating this model.

The meeting closed at 6.00 pm.

**David McGill**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
28 May 2025



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

**Committee Reports**

The following report will be published on 29 May 2025—

Education, Children and Young People Committee, 6th Report, 2025 (Session 6): The Regional Strategic Bodies and Regional Colleges (Glasgow and Lanarkshire) Order 2025 [draft] (SP Paper 800)

**Other Documents**

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 28 May 2025 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**Independent report by a tribunal constituted under section 21 of the Courts Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 to report into the fitness for office of a judicial office holder- part- time Sheriff John Halley** laid under section 24 of the Courts Reform (Scotland) Act 2014

**Lothian Valuation Joint Board Report to the Scottish Parliament on the number of Assessors and availability of resources 2025 (LVJB/2025/01)** laid under Section 24 of the Non-Domestic Rates (Scotland) Act 2020

**Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board Report to the Scottish Parliament on the number of Assessors and availability of resources 2025 (RVJB/2025/01)** laid under Section 24 of the Non-Domestic Rates (Scotland) Act 2020

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