



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 47, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 12 November 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 Justice and Home Affairs were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and a Minister.

2. Rosebank: Patrick Harvie moved S6M-19637—That the Parliament opposes the development of the Rosebank oil and gas field.

The Minister for Business and Employment (Richard Lochhead) moved amendment S6M-19637.4—

As an amendment to motion S6M-19637 in the name of Patrick Harvie (Rosebank), leave out from "opposes" to end and insert "affirms the importance of a just transition, which supports workers in the oil and gas industry, as the useful life of developments comes to an end, and believes that new developments must only proceed if they contribute to energy security, meet a rigorous climate compatibility assessment and are compatible with Scotland's journey to net zero."

Douglas Lumsden moved amendment S6M-19637.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-19637 in the name of Patrick Harvie (Rosebank), leave out "opposes" and insert "supports".

Sarah Boyack moved amendment S6M-19637.5—

As an amendment to motion S6M-19637 in the name of Patrick Harvie (Rosebank), leave out from "opposes" to end and insert "recognises that oil and gas will be part of Scotland and the UK's energy mix for decades to come; acknowledges that the Rosebank oil and gas field has previously been licensed and is currently being considered under new environmental guidance; agrees that the long-term aim for Scotland and the UK should be to reduce dependence on volatile, international markets for fossil fuels; considers that this will require the realisation of Scotland's huge potential in renewable energy, and regrets, therefore, the failure of the Scottish National Party (SNP) administration to bring forward its promised energy strategy, and believes that a properly managed energy transition, which manages existing North Sea oil and gas fields for the entirety of their lifespan and invests in low-carbon energy and energy efficiency across the country, is required to protect and maximise jobs, reduce the need for increased imports, and ensure that Scotland maintains its international reputation for excellence in energy skills."

After debate, amendment S6M-19637.4 was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 62 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 36 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 19). As a result, amendments S5M-19637.3 and S6M-19637.5 were pre-empted.

The motion, as amended, was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 80 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 36 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 1).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament affirms the importance of a just transition, which supports workers in the oil and gas industry, as the useful life of developments comes to an end, and believes that new developments must only proceed if they contribute to energy security, meet a rigorous climate compatibility assessment and are compatible with Scotland's journey to net zero.

3. Better Bus Services: Mark Ruskell moved S6M-19632—That the Parliament agrees that communities across Scotland deserve affordable, accessible and reliable bus services; further agrees that more bus services across Scotland should be run in the public interest to improve services and reduce fares for all passengers; celebrates that 250 million bus journeys have been taken by young people in Scotland since the introduction of free bus travel for under-22s, and calls on the Scottish Government to expand free bus travel to more young people.

The Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity (Jim Fairlie) moved amendment S6M-19632.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-19632 in the name of Mark Ruskell (Better Bus Services), leave out from "calls" to end and insert "agrees that, should there be any expansion of free bus travel to more young people in the future, it must be affordable, sustainable and ensure accessibility, bearing in mind that the current cost of the free bus pass to under-22s is £200.5 million per year."

Sue Webber moved amendment S6M-19632.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-19632 in the name of Mark Ruskell (Better Bus Services), leave out from "further agrees" to end and insert "recognises that competition is essential to keeping bus fares fair and reasonable; calls on the Scottish Government to enhance the reliability and punctuality of bus services through the greater interlinking of timetables and integrated ticketing across bus and rail providers; agrees that good road surfaces are essential to improve bus services; notes that communities across Scotland, but particularly in rural areas, struggle to access bus services, and urges the Scottish Government to take action to make buses safer and to expedite the process to remove bus passes from passengers who commit antisocial behaviour."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 35, Against 83 (including 4 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

Claire Baker moved amendment S6M-19632.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-19632 in the name of Mark Ruskell (Better Bus Services), leave out from ", and calls" to end and insert "; believes that bus travel is vital to everyone in Scotland participating in the economy and is concerned by the reduction in bus routes across Scotland of 44% between 2006-07 and 2023-24; calls on the Scottish Government to shorten and simplify the franchising process, enabling local authorities to bring bus services under local public control and for them to operate in the public interest; further calls on the Scottish Government to prioritise using domestic bus manufacturers to support good, skilled jobs in Scotland, and calls on the Scottish Government to act swiftly to make it possible to remove bus passes from those who engage in persistent abusive behaviour towards bus drivers and passengers."

After debate, amendment S6M-19632.3 was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 65 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 34 (including 3 proxy votes), Abstentions 19). As a result, amendment S5M-19632.1 was pre-empted.

The motion, as amended, was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 81 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 35 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 2).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament agrees that communities across Scotland deserve affordable, accessible and reliable bus services; further agrees that more bus services across Scotland should be run in the public interest to improve services and reduce fares for all passengers; celebrates that 250 million bus journeys have been taken by young people in Scotland since the introduction of free bus travel for under-22s, and agrees that, should there be any expansion of free bus travel to more young people in the future, it must be affordable, sustainable and ensure accessibility, bearing in mind that the current cost of the free bus pass to under-22s is £200.5 million per year.

4. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-19649—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 18 November 2025

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Supporting Scotland's Fishing Industry

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 19 November 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

5.10 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 20 November 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: Climate Action and Energy, and Transport

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Community Wealth Building (Scotland) Bill

followed by Financial Resolution: Community Wealth Building (Scotland) Bill

followed by Ministerial Statement: Publication of UK Covid-19 Inquiry Module 2ABC Report

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 25 November 2025

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Children (Withdrawal from Religious Education and Amendment of UNCRC Compatibility Duty) (Scotland) Bill

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 26 November 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 Conservative and Unionist Party Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.10 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 27 November 2025

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

followed by Members' Business

2.15 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.15 pm Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body Questions

followed by Portfolio Questions: Social Justice and Housing

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 17 November 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. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-19650—That the Parliament agrees that the Absent Voting at Scottish Parliament and Local Government Elections (Signature Refresh) (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Order 2025 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

6. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-19651—That the Parliament agrees that the Regulation of Care (Child Contact Services) (Equality) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

7. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-19652—That the Parliament agrees that the Regulation of Care (Child Contact Services) (Scotland) Order 2025 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

8. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-19653—That the Parliament agrees that the Equality Act 2010 (Specification of Public Authorities) (Scotland) Order 2025 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

9. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-19654—That the Parliament agrees that the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2025 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

10. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-19655—That the Parliament agrees that the First-tier Tribunal for Scotland General Regulatory Chamber Police Appeals and Upper Tribunal for Scotland (Composition) Regulations 2025 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

11. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-19656—That the Parliament agrees that the First-tier Tribunal for Scotland General Regulatory Chamber (Police Appeals) (Procedure) Regulations 2025 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

12. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-19657—That the Parliament agrees that the First-tier Tribunal for Scotland (Transfer of Functions and Members of the Police Appeals Tribunal) Regulations 2025 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

13. Designation of Lead Committee: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-19658—That the Parliament agrees that the Finance and Public Administration Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the legislative consent memorandum on the Public Office (Accountability) Bill.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

14. Substitution on Committees: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-19659—That the Parliament agrees that Gordon MacDonald be appointed as the Scottish National Party substitute on the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

15. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 as noted above.

16. Vision for New Centre for Sustainable Brewing and Distilling at Heriot-Watt University: The Parliament debated S6M-18527 in the name of Gordon MacDonald—That the Parliament welcomes the commitment from Heriot-Watt University, in Edinburgh, on the economic importance of brewing and distilling in Scotland by seeking to raise £35 million to build a new Centre for Sustainable Brewing and Distilling (CSBD); understands the centre will be a new state-of-the-art version of the current International Centre for Brewing and Distilling (ICBD), which it understands is a world leading educational establishment delivering undergraduate and graduate courses; notes that the CSBD will embrace the latest green technologies and sustainable practices, ensuring that the university continues to lead the world in securing a future for both industries; recognises what it sees as the legacy and impact of Heriot-Watt University on the industries of brewing and distilling for more than 120 years, establishing both industries as key economic drivers, and commends what it considers to be the first-class teaching, innovation and sustainable methods of working at the ICBD, which has contributed to the success of

brewing and distilling not only in Scotland but across the continents of Europe, the Americas and Asia.

The meeting closed at 6.02 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
12 November 2025

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

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 12 November 2025—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 83rd Report, 2025 (Session 6): Delegated Powers in the Building Safety Levy (Scotland) Bill at Stage 1 (SP Paper 909)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 84th Report, 2025 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 11 November 2025 (SP Paper 910)

Other Documents

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 12 November 2025 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Financial sustainability and taxes: A report prepared for the Auditor General for Scotland (AGS/2025/10) laid under the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

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