



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 49, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 18 November 2025

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Time for Reflection: Professor Fergus McNeill, Professor of Criminology and Social Work at the University of Glasgow, led Time for Reflection.

2. Revision to Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-19807— That the Parliament agrees to the following revisions to the programme of business for —

(a) Tuesday 18 November 2025—

after

followed by Topical Questions

insert

followed by Ministerial Statement: Buildings (Heating and Energy Performance) and Heat Networks (Scotland) Bill

followed by Ministerial Statement: Alexander Dennis Ltd

delete

5.00 pm Decision Time

and insert

5.30 pm Decision Time

(b) Thursday 20 November 2025—

delete

2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motion (if required)

2.30 pm Portfolio Questions: Climate Action and Energy, and Transport

and insert

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motion (if required)

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Climate Action and Energy, and Transport

followed by Ministerial Statement: Offshore Wind

The motion was agreed to.

3. Committee Meeting Times: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-19808—That the Parliament agrees that, under Rule 12.3.3B of Standing Orders, the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee can meet, if necessary, at the same time as a meeting of the Parliament during Members' Business on Tuesday 18 November 2025.

The motion was agreed to.

4. Topical Questions: Questions were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and Ministers.

5. Ministerial Statement: The Cabinet Secretary for Housing (Mairi McAllan) made a statement and answered questions on Buildings (Heating and Energy Performance) and Heat Networks (Scotland) Bill.

6. Ministerial Statement: The Deputy First Minister (Kate Forbes) made a statement and answered questions on Alexander Dennis Ltd.

7. Supporting Scotland's Fishing Industry: The Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands (Mairi Gougeon) moved S6M-19739—That the Parliament condemns the UK Government's damaging decision to allocate Scotland only £28 million of the £360 million Fishing and Coastal Growth Fund, which is only 7.78% of the fund; agrees that this is an entirely unfair settlement and calls on the UK Government to reverse this decision, as called for by the Scottish Government and industry stakeholders; acknowledges that Scotland previously received 46% of

the EU funding allocated to the UK; welcomes that the Scottish fishing sector accounts for over 60% of the UK's fishing capacity and over 60% of UK seafood exports, and that more than 75% of all UK quota species are landed by Scottish vessels; recognises the need for continued investment to build a thriving, sustainable and modern fishing industry, which is of key importance to Scotland's island and coastal communities and the wider economy; acknowledges the range of challenges facing the fishing industry, including the ongoing negotiations with international partners to agree fishing opportunities for 2026 and the challenging advice for a number of key stocks, and further acknowledges Scotland's negotiating position, which seeks to balance sustainably managed fish stocks alongside a sustainable and prosperous fishing sector.

Tim Eagle moved amendment S6M-19739.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-19739 in the name of Mairi Gougeon (Supporting Scotland's Fishing Industry), insert at end ", and opposes the proposed Moray Firth FLOW-Park, which will have a negative impact on the local fishing sector and for which plans have received significant and widespread opposition."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 31, Against 82 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

Rhoda Grant moved amendment S6M-19739.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-19739 in the name of Mairi Gougeon (Supporting Scotland's Fishing Industry), leave out from "condemns" to end and insert "regrets that the Scottish Government asked for the Fishing and Coastal Growth Fund to be devolved without first agreeing a mechanism outside of the Barnett formula that reflected the size and value of the Scottish industry; notes that, since the 2024 election, the Scottish Government has received an additional £5.2 billion of funding compared with previous spending plans; calls on the Scottish Government to plan for the future of fishing, by developing the processing industry to deal with a larger share of fishing in UK waters and encourage new entrants into the industry, especially within the inshore fleet; believes that the Scottish Government must invest in scientific research in order to manage Scotland's fish stocks to protect the industry going forward; regrets that the Scottish Government has not introduced space-based planning of Scotland's seas to ensure that renewable developments do not put pressure on the fishing industry and other marine users, and calls for the development of a scheme to lease additional quota share equitably in order to end the trading of quota and licences."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 20 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 96 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0).

Ariane Burgess moved amendment S6M-19739.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-19739 in the name of Mairi Gougeon (Supporting Scotland's Fishing Industry), after "economy;" insert "further recognises the central role that Scotland's low-impact fishing fleet plays for those communities, both economically and environmentally, and believes that the fund should prioritise that fleet; accepts that all parts of Scotland's fleet, not just the low-impact sector, will continue to experience a spatial squeeze without proper spatial management for fisheries, based on science and with strong local input;".

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 7 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 108 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0).

Beatrice Wishart moved amendment S6M-19739.4—

As an amendment to motion S6M-19739 in the name of Mairi Gougeon (Supporting Scotland's Fishing Industry), insert at end ", and calls on the Scottish Government to guarantee that its own distribution of the Fishing and Coastal Growth Fund, as well as any other similar funding, is allocated proportionately so that the contribution made by Shetland and other island and coastal communities to the fishing industry and Scotland's wider economy is properly recognised."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 38 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 77 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0).

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 94, Against 23 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

8. Ministerial Statement: The Deputy First Minister (Kate Forbes) made a statement and answered questions on Fife Ethylene Plant, Mossmorran.

9. Substitution on Committees: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-19809—That the Parliament agrees that Maggie Chapman be appointed to replace Mark Ruskell as the Scottish Green Party substitute on the Education, Children and Young People Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

10. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 7 and 9 as noted above.

11. Congratulations to CHAP on 25 Years of Serving the Community: The Parliament debated S6M-19003 in the name of Kenneth Gibson—That the Parliament congratulates the Ayrshire-based charity, Community Housing Advocacy Project (CHAP) on marking 25 years of service; recognises that the organisation began with volunteers offering free housing advocacy and, since becoming a registered charity in 2000, has expanded to provide professional advice and support in welfare rights, debt management and the delivery of educational sessions on homelessness awareness and financial literacy in secondary schools and colleges,

alongside outreach services across Ayrshire; notes that CHAP has retained Type III accreditation under the Scottish National Standards for Information and Advice Providers since 2009, reflecting, it believes, its commitment to quality and consistency; acknowledges that the charity achieved a total of £10.4 million in financial gains for its clients between August 2021 and July 2025, helping to alleviate poverty for 1,230 individuals; commends the organisation for its independence and its commitment to offering all services free of charge, despite the ongoing challenges of sustaining operations in an environment marked by reliance on short-term, non-recurring external funding; understands with concern that few charities achieve such longevity without the security of long-term core funding; believes that advice and advocacy services, such as CHAP's, save public funds while building resilience and stability in communities, contributing to both national and local strategies, and welcomes greater priority being given to safeguarding and financially supporting CHAP and similar organisations, so that they can continue to thrive and deliver value for money in Cunninghame North and across Scotland.

The meeting closed at 6.24 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
18 November 2025

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 18 November 2025—

Social Justice and Social Security Committee, 10th Report, 2025 (Session 6):
Pre-Budget scrutiny 2026-27: future social security spending in Scotland (SP
Paper 911)

Subordinate Legislation

Made Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 18 November 2025 and is subject to the made affirmative procedure—

Representation of the People Act 1983 Remedial (Scotland) Order 2025 (SSI 2025/353)
laid under section 14(2)(b) of the Convention Rights (Compliance) (Scotland) Act 2001

Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 14 November 2025 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Companies Act 2006 (Scottish public sector companies to be audited by the Auditor General for Scotland) Order 2026 [draft]
laid under section 483(5) of the Companies Act 2006

Negative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 17 November 2025 and is subject to the negative procedure—

Disclosure (Scotland) Act 2020 (Commencement No. 6, Consequential Amendment, Saving and Transitional Provision) Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/352 (C.26))
laid under section 100(3) of the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007 and section 91 of the Disclosure (Scotland) Act 2020

Laid Only Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 17 November 2025 and is not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Education (Scotland) Act 2025 (Commencement No. 1 and Transitory Provision) Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/351 (C.25))
laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 14 November 2025 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Disclosure Scotland Annual Report and Accounts 2025 (SG/2025/278) laid under section 20 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

The Skills Development Scotland Co. Limited Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 (SG/2025/285) laid under section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 17 November 2025 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Children's Hearings Scotland: 'The Feedback Loop' - A Report by the National Convener on the implementation of Compulsory Supervision Orders for 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025 (SG/2025/269) laid under section 181 of the Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011

Independent National Whistleblowing Officer: Compendium of Case Reports for November 2025 (INWO/2025/11) laid under sections 15(1) and 15(1A) of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002

Scottish Public Services Ombudsman: Compendium of Case Reports for November 2025 (SPSO/2025/11) laid under sections 15(1) and 15(1A) of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 18 November 2025 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland, Annual Report and Accounts 2024-25, Year Ended 31 March 2025 (SG/2025/299) laid under section 10 (3) of the Commissioner for Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2003

Scottish Legal Complaints Commission Annual Report 2024-25 (SG/2025/242) laid under section 16 (4) of Schedule 1 of the Legal Profession and Legal Aid (Scotland) Act 2007

Scottish Legal Complaints Commission Annual Report and Accounts - Year ended 30 June 2025 (SG/2025/243) laid under 15(2) of Schedule 1 to the Legal Profession and Legal Aid (Scotland) Act 2007 and section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability Act 2000

Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018: Progress Report 2024 to 2025 (SG/2025/277) laid under section 20 and section 87 of the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018

Social Security Scotland Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (SG/2025/213) laid under section 22 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000 and Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006

Statement of Reasons: The Representation of the People Act 1983 Remedial (Scotland) Order 2025 (SG/2025/298) laid under section 14(2)(b) of the Convention Rights (Compliance) (Scotland) Act 2001

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