



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 52, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 25 November 2025

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Time for Reflection: Very Rev Dr Andriy Chornenko, Vicar for Scotland of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of the Holy Family of London, 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-19913 —That the Parliament agrees to the following revision to the programme of business for Tuesday 25 November 2025—

after

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

insert

followed by Non-Domestic Rates (Liability for Unoccupied Properties) (Scotland) Bill:
Emergency Bill Motion

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-19914 —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 25 November 2025.

The motion was agreed to.

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

5. Children (Withdrawal from Religious Education and Amendment of UNCRC Compatibility Duty) (Scotland) Bill: The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills (Jenny Gilruth) moved S6M-19866—That the Parliament agrees to the general principles of the Children (Withdrawal from Religious Education and Amendment of UNCRC Compatibility Duty) (Scotland) Bill.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 66 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 29, Abstentions 21 (including 1 proxy vote)).

6. Non-Domestic Rates (Liability for Unoccupied Properties) (Scotland) Bill: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey) moved S6M-19890—That the Parliament agrees that the Non-Domestic Rates (Liability for Unoccupied Properties) (Scotland) Bill be treated as an Emergency Bill.

The motion was agreed to (by division: For 88 (including 3 proxy votes), Against 22, Abstentions 0).

7. Urgent Question: An urgent question, to ask the Scottish Government whether it will now hold an inquiry into grooming gangs in Scotland, in light of the recent reported comments by the NSPCC that the country lacks a clear understanding of the scale and nature of child sexual abuse, was answered by the Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise (Natalie Don-Innes).

8. Timetable and Procedures for Consideration: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-19916—That, subject to the Parliament's agreement that the Non-Domestic Rates (Liability for Unoccupied Properties) (Scotland) Bill be treated as an Emergency Bill, the Parliament agrees to consider the Non-Domestic Rates (Liability for Unoccupied Properties) (Scotland) Bill as follows—

Stage 1 on Wednesday 26 November 2025;

and, subject to the Parliament's agreement of the general principles of the Bill, Stages 2 and 3 on Thursday 27 November 2025.

The motion was agreed to (by division: For 88 (including 3 proxy votes), Against 26, Abstentions 1).

9. Revision to Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-19920—That the Parliament agrees to the following revisions to the programme of business for—

(a) Wednesday 26 November 2025—

after

followed by Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party Debate: Growing Scotland's Economy

insert

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Non-Domestic Rates (Liability for Unoccupied Properties) (Scotland) Bill

followed by Financial Resolution: Non-Domestic Rates (Liability for Unoccupied Properties) (Scotland) Bill

delete

5.10 pm Decision Time

and insert

6.10 pm Decision Time

(b) Thursday 27 November 2025—

delete

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

insert

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Committee of the Whole Parliament: Stage 2 Proceedings: Non-Domestic Rates (Liability for Unoccupied Properties) (Scotland) Bill

followed by Scottish Parliament Corporate Body Questions

followed by Portfolio Questions: Social Justice and Housing

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Non-Domestic Rates (Liability for Unoccupied Properties) (Scotland) Bill

delete

5.00 pm Decision Time

and insert

7.00 pm Decision Time

The motion was agreed to (by division: For 89 (including 3 proxy votes), Against 26, Abstentions 1).

10. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on item 5 as noted above.

11. St Andrew's Day 2025: The Parliament debated S6M-18802 in the name of Michelle Thomson—That the Parliament recognises that St Andrew's Day is marked each year on 30 November; notes what it considers is the importance of these annual celebrations at a local, national and global level; highlights what it sees as the opportunities that celebrating St Andrew's Day brings to the people of Scotland; believes that these include recognising national identity and cultural diversity, and cementing the country as one of the oldest nations in the international community; thanks the former MSP, Dennis Canavan, who, it considers, worked hard to gain cross-party agreement to make St Andrew's Day a national holiday in Scotland through introducing a Member's Bill, which, on 15 January 2007, became the St Andrew's Day Bank Holiday (Scotland) Act 2007; acknowledges what it sees as the economic benefits that global recognition brings to Scotland through the culture, business, education, tourism and retail sectors, supported by the use of the Saltire as both the national flag and the "Brand Scotland" identifier of Scottish produce and marketing; understands that St Andrew is an internationally recognisable figure across faith communities and that, while he has been the patron saint of Scotland since the 14th century, Andrew is also a patron of many other countries, bringing together different nationalities, faiths and cultures; acknowledges the events hosted by the countries that identify St Andrew as their patron or that have a significant Scottish diaspora; commends all in Scotland who will celebrate St Andrew's Day 2025 and recognises the importance of the national day, and notes the plans for future events being held across Scotland and other countries to strengthen cultural, trade and tourism connections with Scotland.

The meeting closed at 6.03 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
25 November 2025

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 21 November 2025—

Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee, 4th Report,
2025 (Session 6): Pre-Budget Scrutiny 2026-27: funding for culture (SP Paper
913)

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 21 November 2025 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Common Organisation of the Markets in Agricultural Products (Fruit and Vegetables) (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2026 [draft]
laid under section 7(4) of the Agriculture (Retained EU Law and Data) (Scotland) Act 2020

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 25 November 2025 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Cross-border Placement of Children (Requirements, Effect and Enforcement) (Scotland) Regulations 2026 [draft]
laid under section 33A(3)(c) of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 and section 190(2A)(b) and 197(2) of the Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011

Negative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 24 November 2025 and is subject to the negative procedure—

Burial and Cremation (Applications and Registers) (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/360)
laid under section 106(4) of the Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Act 2016

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 21 November 2025 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Crofting Commission Annual Report & Accounts 2024/25 (SG/2025/189) laid under Section 2B and Schedule 1, paragraph 19 of the Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993

Mental Health Tribunal for Scotland, Annual Report 2024/2025 (SG/2025/304) laid under paragraph 14(3) of Schedule 2 to the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 24 November 2025 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Zero Waste Scotland Annual Report and Accounts 2024/2025 (SG/2025/260)

laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 25 November 2025 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

HMICS Custody inspection report – Highland and Islands (HMICS/2025/08)

laid under section 79(3) of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012

King's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (SG/2025/166) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

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