



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 35, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 1 October 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 on Health and Social Care, were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and Ministers.

**2. Mobile Phones in Schools:** Pam Duncan-Glancy moved S6M-19123—That the Parliament agrees that mobile phones should be banned for learners in school classrooms.

The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills (Jenny Gilruth) moved amendment S6M-19123.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-19123 in the name of Pam Duncan-Glancy (Mobile Phones in Schools), insert at end ", and acknowledges that the Scottish Government's Guidance on Mobile Phones in Scotland's Schools makes clear that headteachers are empowered to implement full bans, should their professional judgment see fit to do so."

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 85 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 26 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0).

Miles Briggs moved amendment S6M-19123.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-19123 in the name of Pam Duncan-Glancy (Mobile Phones in Schools), leave out from "banned" to end and insert "subject to a clear national ban in classrooms, recognising the strong evidence of how distracting they are and how disruptive they can be to pupils' ability to learn and teachers' ability to teach; acknowledges that while headteachers and local authorities have some powers to restrict the use of mobile phones, existing Scottish guidance is weak, and calls, therefore, on the Scottish Government to update its guidance with clear national direction on what is expected."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 49 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 62 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0).

The motion, as amended, was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 85 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 26 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament agrees that mobile phones should be banned for learners in school classrooms, and acknowledges that the Scottish Government's Guidance on Mobile Phones in Scotland's Schools makes clear that headteachers are empowered to implement full bans, should their professional judgment see fit to do so.

**3. Protecting Scotland's Fire Service :** Katy Clark moved S6M-19124—That the Parliament expresses concern at the cuts proposed by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS); recognises the Cuts Leave Scars campaign, which was set up in 2023 in response to a decade of underfunding by the Scottish Government; notes the loss of over 1,250 firefighter jobs across Scotland since the establishment of the SFRS in 2013, leading to pumps being unavailable as a result of too few firefighters to crew them; regrets that, as a result of cuts, call handling times have increased in control rooms and response times have increased from 6 minutes and 51 seconds to 8 minutes and 20 seconds, which risks lives in Scotland; notes with concern the plans to close 13 stations and permanently withdraw 10 appliances, and encourages the Scottish Government to work alongside the SFRS and the Fire Brigades Union Scotland to ensure that there are no further cuts to firefighter numbers or fire cover and that safe crewing levels are guaranteed.

The Minister for Victims and Community Safety (Siobhian Brown) moved amendment S6M-19124.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-19124 in the name of Katy Clark (Protecting Scotland's Fire Service), leave out from "expresses" to end and insert "recognises that, whilst house fires have reduced by over 20% since 2013, due to the climate emergency, incidents and risk of flooding and wildfires have significantly increased; further recognises that the recent Scottish Fire and Rescue Service's (SFRS) Service Delivery Review aims to ensure that the service can respond to these changing risks and that the right firefighters and appliances are in the right place at the right time; notes that no decisions will be taken until an independent analysis of the public consultation has been carried out and that any changes would be implemented over a five-year period; agrees that all public services need to provide efficient and effective services

that deliver value for the public purse, and encourages the Scottish Government to continue to work alongside the SFRS and the Fire Brigades Union to ensure that Scotland has safer communities."

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 55 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 52 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 3).

Sharon Dowey moved amendment S6M-19124.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-19124 in the name of Katy Clark (Protecting Scotland's Fire Service), insert at end "; recognises that the Scottish Government's mismanagement of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) has resulted in an £800 million operational backlog that has mostly resulted from the failure to bring stations up to modern standards, with 18 fire stations lacking running water; notes that the SFRS is coming under increasing strain thanks to the pressures presented by wildfires, and that the public are becoming more concerned about the fire hazards presented by battery storage sites, and calls on the Scottish Government to ensure that firefighters have the basic resources to do their job, to ensure that lives are not needlessly lost."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 54 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 56 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 2).

The motion, as amended was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 56 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 53 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 3).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament recognises that, whilst house fires have reduced by over 20% since 2013, due to the climate emergency, incidents and risk of flooding and wildfires have significantly increased; further recognises that the recent Scottish Fire and Rescue Service's (SFRS) Service Delivery Review aims to ensure that the service can respond to these changing risks and that the right firefighters and appliances are in the right place at the right time; notes that no decisions will be taken until an independent analysis of the public consultation has been carried out and that any changes would be implemented over a five-year period; agrees that all public services need to provide efficient and effective services that deliver value for the public purse, and encourages the Scottish Government to continue to work alongside the SFRS and the Fire Brigades Union to ensure that Scotland has safer communities.

**4. Ministerial Statement:** The Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity (Jim Fairlie) made a statement and answered questions on Urban Gulls Summit.

**5. Business Programme:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-19136—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 7 October 2025

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Topical Questions (if selected)

*followed by* Stage 3 Proceedings: Criminal Justice Modernisation and Abusive Domestic Behaviour Reviews (Scotland) Bill

*followed by* Committee Announcements

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

6.00 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Wednesday 8 October 2025

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

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

*followed by* Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party Business

*followed by* Ministerial Statement: Secure Accommodation - Capacity and Future of Secure

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Approval of SSIs (if required)

5.40 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Thursday 9 October 2025

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

*followed by* Members' Business

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Education and Skills

*followed by* Ministerial Statement: Youth Mental Health Support

*followed by* Stage 1 Debate: Right to Addiction Recovery (Scotland) Bill

*followed by* Motion on Legislative Consent: Planning and Infrastructure Bill - UK Legislation

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 28 October 2025

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Topical Questions (if selected)

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

*followed by* Committee Announcements

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

9.00 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Wednesday 29 October 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* Stage 3 Proceedings: Land Reform (Scotland) Bill

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Approval of SSIs (if required)

9.00 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Thursday 30 October 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: Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill

*followed by* Financial Resolution: Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill

*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 6 October 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.

**6. Stage 1 Timetable:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-19137—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Wellbeing and Sustainable Development (Scotland) Bill at stage 1 be completed by 23 January 2026.

The motion was agreed to.

**7. Stage 1 Timetable:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-19138—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Restraint and Seclusion in Schools (Scotland) Bill at stage 1 be completed by 30 January 2026.

The motion was agreed to.

**8. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-19139—That the Parliament agrees that the Climate Change (Local Development Plan) (Repeals) (Scotland) Order 2025 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

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

**10. International FASD Day and the Need for Awareness:** The Parliament debated S6M-18639 in the name of Rona Mackay—That the Parliament notes that 9 September 2025 is International FASD Day; understands that FASD, or Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, is a preventable neurodevelopmental condition with lifelong cognitive, emotional and behavioural challenges, which occurs when prenatal alcohol exposure affects the developing brain and body; acknowledges reports that 4% of the population are affected, and each person with FASD is affected differently, often requiring lifelong support in education and post school settings to optimise their life experience; understands that, while the guideline in Scotland for pregnant women, or women trying to conceive is, “no alcohol, no risk”, 46% of pregnancies in the UK are unplanned so without better awareness, people may continue their pre-conception lifestyle until they have a positive pregnancy test; recognises the importance of prevention, early diagnosis and intervention; notes that unrecognised FASD can lead to people ending up in vulnerable situations, particularly given reports that many professionals do not fully understand the symptoms and effects of FASD; understands that populations of concern include people in contact with the criminal justice system, care experienced people, people who are homeless, and people with substance misuse issues; notes the view that training for health and social care professionals in identifying possible FASD is vital; considers that the use of Alcohol Brief Interventions for pregnant women is a useful tool in reducing the risk of FASD; notes the view that alcohol producers should be mandated to provide clear written pregnancy warnings on their products, and understands that there is an estimated economic benefit of £1.4 million for each case of FASD that is avoided.

The meeting closed at 6.35 pm.

**David McGill**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
1 October 2025

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

**Committee Reports**

The following reports were published on 1 October 2025—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 69th Report, 2025 (Session 6): Delegated Powers in the Crofting and Scottish Land Court Bill at Stage 1 (SP Paper 881)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 70th Report, 2025 (Session 6): Delegated Powers in the Ecocide (Scotland) Bill at Stage 1 (SP Paper 882)

**Other Documents**

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 1 October 2025 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**Scotland's Colleges 2025: A briefing prepared for the Auditor General for Scotland (AGS/2025/8)** laid under the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000



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