



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 42, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 30 October 2025

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

The meeting opened at 11.40 am.

1. General Questions: Questions were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.

2. First Minister's Questions: Questions were answered by the First Minister (John Swinney).

3. Regretting Bank Closures: The Parliament debated S6M-19202 in the name of Craig Hoy—That the Parliament regrets the latest round of bank closure announcements from Bank of Scotland and other operators across Scotland and the UK; further regrets what it sees as the failure to properly consult with customers and local businesses before closure decisions are taken; notes the calls for all high street bank operators to consider adopting a “branch promise” to halt future closures and to prevent banking deserts developing; expresses concern regarding what it sees as the fragile future of rural banking, including in the South Scotland region, and notes the calls for Link and Cash Access UK to do all they can to fully maintain access to cash and banking services when high street banks close branches.

4. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-19481—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 4 November 2025

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions

followed by Social Justice and Social Security Committee Debate: Financial Considerations When Leaving an Abusive Relationship

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

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

10.00 pm Decision Time

Wednesday 5 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 Labour Party Business

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

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

7.15 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 6 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: Social Justice and Housing

followed by Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee Debate: Strengthening Committees' Effectiveness

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Tuesday 11 November 2025

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions

followed by Stage 1 Debate: UEFA European Championship (Scotland) Bill

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

4.15 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 12 November 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 Green Party Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.10 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 13 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: Education and Skills

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Scottish Parliament (Recall and Removal of Members) 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 3 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. Stage 1 Extension: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-19442—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Scottish Parliament (Recall and Removal of Members) Bill at stage 1 be extended to 14 November 2025.

The motion was agreed to.

6. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-19443—That the Parliament agrees that the Scottish Aggregates Tax (Administration) Regulations 2025 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to.

7. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-19444—That the Parliament agrees that the Scottish Parliament (Disqualification of Councillors) Regulations 2025 [draft] be approved.

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-19445—That the Parliament agrees that the Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Order 2025 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to.

9. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-19446—That the Parliament agrees that the Scottish Parliament (Disqualification of Members of the House of Commons) Regulations 2025 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to.

10. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-19447—That the Parliament agrees that the Scottish Parliament (Disqualification of Members of the House of Lords) Regulations 2025 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to.

11. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-19448—That the Parliament agrees that the Revenue Scotland and Tax Powers Act (Postponement of Tax Pending a Review or Appeal) Amendment Regulations 2025 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to.

12. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-19449—That the Parliament agrees that the Free-Range Poultrymeat Marketing Standards (Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to.

13. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-19450—That the Parliament agrees that the Revenue Scotland and Tax Powers Act (Record Keeping) Amendment Regulations 2025 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to.

14. Suspension of Standing Orders: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-19451—That the Parliament agrees that, for the purposes of consideration of the second supplementary legislative consent memorandum on the Planning and Infrastructure Bill, Rule 9B.3.5 of Standing Orders is suspended.

The motion was agreed to.

15. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Climate Action and Energy, and Transport were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and a Minister.

16. Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill: The Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Energy (Gillian Martin) moved S6M-19422—That the Parliament agrees to the general principles of the Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

17. Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill: Financial Resolution: The Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Energy (Gillian Martin) moved S6M-18730—That the Parliament, for the purposes of any Act of the Scottish Parliament resulting from the Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill, agrees to any expenditure of a kind referred to in Rule 9.12.3A of the Parliament's Standing Orders arising in consequence of the Act.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

18. Planning and Infrastructure Bill - UK Legislation: The Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Energy (Gillian Martin) moved S6M-19454—That the Parliament agrees that the relevant provisions of the Planning and Infrastructure Bill, introduced in the House of Commons on 11 March 2025, and subsequently amended, relating to a new clause on wind generation stations that may affect seismic array systems, inserted after clause 28, so far as these matters fall within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament and alter the executive competence of the Scottish Ministers, should be considered by the UK Parliament.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

19. Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill: Financial Resolution: The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care (Neil Gray) moved S6M-19456—That the Parliament, for the purposes of any Act of the Scottish Parliament resulting from the Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill, agrees to any expenditure of a kind referred to in Rule 9.12.3A of the Parliament's Standing Orders arising in consequence of the Act.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 70 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 31 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 11).

20. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 16, 17, 18 and 19 as noted above.

21. Cholangiocarcinoma Awareness: The Parliament debated S6M-19085 in the name of Marie McNair—That the Parliament recognises that October 2025 is Liver Cancer Awareness Month, with cholangiocarcinoma (CCA), which is also known as bile duct cancer, considered to be the second most common primary liver cancer in the world; acknowledges that CCA has few symptoms in its early stages and that people who present with it tend to have quite vague symptoms, such as nausea and loss of appetite, which makes it difficult to diagnose and often managed too late, leading to it having among the worst survival rates of any cancer; notes with concern that, although most cases occur in people over 60, prevalence of the condition appears to be increasing across all age groups, including younger people; notes calls for a comprehensive genomic testing programme, which was approved by NHS Scotland in 2023, to be implemented; believes that this could identify over four-in-five potentially treatable gene faults in CCA patients; welcomes groups such as AMMF, the UK's only charity solely dedicated to CCA, on providing information and support to people who need it, campaigning to raise awareness and funding research, and notes the view that more needs to be done to raise awareness of this type of cancer to improve outcomes for patients.

The meeting closed at 5.45 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
30 October 2025

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

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 30 October 2025—

Finance and Public Administration Committee, 11th Report, 2025 (Session 6):
Report on Pre-Budget Scrutiny 2026-27: Responding to Long-Term Fiscal
Pressures (SP Paper 896)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 77th Report, 2025 (Session
6): Delegated Powers in the Contract (Formation and Remedies) (Scotland)
Bill at Stage 1 (SP Paper 897)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 78th Report, 2025 (Session
6): Legislative Consent Memorandum: delegated powers exercisable within
devolved competence in the Pension Schemes Bill (SP Paper 898)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 79th Report, 2025 (Session
6): Delegated Powers in the Freedom of Information Reform (Scotland) Bill at
Stage 1 (SP Paper 899)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 80th Report, 2025 (Session
6): Delegated Powers in the Prostitution (Offences and Support) (Scotland)
Bill at Stage 1 (SP Paper 900)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 81st Report, 2025 (Session
6): Delegated Powers in the Digital Assets (Scotland) Bill at Stage 1 (SP
Paper 901)

Subordinate Legislation

Negative Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 30 October 2025 and
are subject to the negative procedure—

Title Conditions (Scotland) Act 2003 (Rural Housing Bodies) Amendment Order 2025
(SSI 2025/298)

laid under section 127(1) of the Title Conditions (Scotland) Act 2003

Public Procurement (Agreement on Government Procurement) (Thresholds)
(Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/299)
laid under regulation 83A of the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations
2015, regulation 108A of the Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016
and regulation 60ZA of the Concession Contracts (Scotland) Regulations
2016

Laid Only Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 30 October 2025 and are not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Act of Sederunt (Intimation and Service) 2025 (SSI 2025/301)
laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform
(Scotland) Act 2010

Act of Sederunt (Electronic Signature and Electronic Transmission of Documents)
2025 (SSI 2025/302)
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 30 October 2025 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Scottish Human Rights Commission Annual Report 2024-25 (SG/2025/272) laid under Section 15 (1) of the Scottish Commission for Human Rights Act 2006

Scottish Legal Aid Board Annual Report and Accounts For the year ended 31 March 2025 (SG/2025/137) laid under Section 5(7) of the Legal Aid (Scotland) Act 1986 and Section 22(5) of the Public Accountability and Finance (Scotland) Act 2000

Scottish Parliamentary Pension Scheme Annual Accounts and Report 2024/25 (SPCPF/2025/01) laid under Schedule 1, Part S, Rule 102 (2) (b) of the Scottish Parliamentary Pensions Act 2009

The 2024/25 audit of the Scottish Government Consolidated Accounts (SG/2025/175) laid under the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000 - Section 20 subsection 6

The Scottish Government Consolidated Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (SG/2025/173) laid under the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000 - Section 20 subsection 6

Transport Scotland Annual Report and Accounts 2024-25 (SG/2025/23) laid under section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

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the Scottish Parliament website at:

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For information on the Scottish Parliament contact
Public Information on:

Telephone: 0131 348 5000 or 0800 092 7500

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