



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 23, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 3 September 2025

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

The meeting opened at 2:00 pm.

1. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Deputy First Minister Responsibilities, Economy and Gaelic, and then on Finance and Local Government, were answered by the Deputy First Minister and Ministers.

2. First Minister's Statement: The First Minister (John Swinney) made a statement and answered questions on the Situation in Gaza.

3. Palestine: The Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture (Angus Robertson) moved S6M-18686—That the Parliament agrees with the recognition of the State of Palestine and that peace in the region must be pursued by all.

Jackson Carlaw moved amendment S6M-18686.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-18686 in the name of Angus Robertson (Palestine), after “Palestine” insert “at the appropriate time and as part of a wider and lasting peace settlement in which the Palestinian people are free from the control of Hamas,”.

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 26, Against 83 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 5 (including 1 proxy vote).

Neil Bibby moved amendment S6M-18686.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-18686 in the name of Angus Robertson (Palestine), insert at end “; welcomes the actions taken by the UK Government to respect the jurisdiction and independence of the International Court of Justice and International Criminal Court, restore funding for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, restrict arms sales licences to prevent breaches of international law, issue sanctions on Israeli ministers and settlers in the West Bank and commit to recognising a Palestinian state at the UN General Assembly; calls on the Scottish Government to update the Parliament on the due diligence checks carried out by Scottish Enterprise during investment decision processes to ensure that defence products are not used in breaches of humanitarian law in Gaza or elsewhere, and considers that there must be an immediate ceasefire, with delivery of humanitarian aid and food into Gaza, the release of all the hostages and a pathway to a lasting peace between Israel and Palestine, secured by a two-state solution.”

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 83 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 25, Abstentions 6 (1 proxy vote)).

Patrick Harvie moved amendment S6M-18686.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-18686 in the name of Angus Robertson (Palestine), insert at end “, and calls on the Scottish and UK governments to immediately impose a package of boycotts, divestment and sanctions targeted at the State of Israel and at companies complicit in its military operations and its occupation of Palestine.”

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 62 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 31 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 21 (including 1 proxy vote).

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 65 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 24 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 26).

Accordingly the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament agrees with the recognition of the State of Palestine and that peace in the region must be pursued by all; welcomes the actions taken by the UK Government to respect the jurisdiction and independence of the International Court of Justice and International Criminal Court, restore funding for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, restrict arms sales licences to prevent breaches of international law, issue sanctions on Israeli ministers and settlers in the West Bank and commit to recognising a Palestinian state at the UN General Assembly; calls on the Scottish Government to update the Parliament on the due diligence checks carried out by Scottish Enterprise during investment decision processes to ensure that defence products are not used in breaches of humanitarian law in Gaza or elsewhere; considers that there must be an immediate ceasefire, with delivery of humanitarian aid and food into Gaza, the release of all the hostages and a pathway to a lasting peace between Israel and Palestine, secured by a two-state solution, and calls on the Scottish and UK governments to immediately impose a package of

boycotts, divestment and sanctions targeted at the State of Israel and at companies complicit in its military operations and its occupation of Palestine.

4. Revision to Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-18695—That the Parliament agrees to the following revision to the programme of business for Thursday 4 September 2025—

after

followed by Public Audit Committee Debate: The 2022/23 and 2023/24 Audits of the Water Industry Commission for Scotland

insert

followed by Motion on Legislative Consent: Employment Rights Bill - UK Legislation.

The motion was agreed to.

5. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-18696—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 9 September 2025

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Ministerial Statement: Actions to Support Improved Relationships and Behaviour in Schools

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Twenty Years of Scotland's Railway Providing a Strong Platform for the Future

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 10 September 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

followed by Approval of SSIs (if required)

5.10 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 11 September 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 Ministerial Statement: GFG Business Operations in Scotland

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Supporting Scottish Exports in Response to Global Uncertainty

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 16 September 2025—

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Victims, Witnesses, and Justice Reform (Scotland) Bill

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

10.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 17 September 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 Stage 3 Debate: Victims, Witnesses, and Justice Reform (Scotland) Bill

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Leases (Automatic Continuation etc.) (Scotland) Bill

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Approval of SSIs (if required)

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 18 September 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 SPCB Supported Bodies Landscape Review Committee Debate: SPCB
Supported Bodies Landscape Review*

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 8 September 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 (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-18697—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Children (Care, Care Experience and Services Planning) (Scotland) Bill at stage 1 be completed by 16 January 2026.

The motion was agreed to.

7. Stage 1 Timetable: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-18698—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Children (Withdrawal from Religious Education and Amendment to UNCRC Compatibility Duty) (Scotland) Bill at stage 1 be completed by 28 November 2025.

The motion was agreed to.

8. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-18699—That the Parliament agrees

that the Scottish Parliament (Constituencies and Regions) Order 2025 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

9. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-18700—That the Parliament agrees that the Scottish Parliament (Disqualification) Order 2025 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

10. Designation of Lead Committee: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-18701—That the Parliament agrees that the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the second supplementary legislative consent memorandum on the Employment Rights Bill.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

11. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 3, 8, 9 and 10 as noted above.

12. Recognising the Impact of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD): The Parliament debated S6M-18369 in the name of Kenneth Gibson— that the Parliament recognises the impact of chronic kidney disease (CKD) on individuals and the NHS, with, it understands, thousands of people reliant on dialysis or living with a kidney transplant, and many more at risk of progression; understands that CKD is one of the most common and resource-intensive long-term conditions but considers that it lacks a specific policy focus; welcomes the Scottish Government's work on a long-term conditions strategy and notes the belief that the Scottish Government should include CKD as a dedicated strand, with actions on prevention, early diagnosis, equitable access to transplantation, and a home-first approach to dialysis care; notes the view that increasing support for home dialysis and improving organ donation rates would improve outcomes and reduce system pressures, and further notes the belief that the Scottish Government should work with people across Scotland, including in the Cunninghame North constituency, who are living with kidney disease, as well as clinicians, third sector organisations and industry, to deliver meaningful change.

The meeting closed at 6.17 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
3 September 2025

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 3 September 2025—

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee, 6th Report, 2025 (Session 6):
Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum (LCM-S6-53b) on the
Employment Rights Bill (SP Paper 850)

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 3 September 2025 and are subject to the affirmative procedure—

Social Security (Residence and Presence Requirements) (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 [draft]
laid under section 96(2) of the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018

Free-Range Poultrymeat Marketing Standards (Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 [draft]
laid under section 9(4) of the Agriculture (Retained EU Law and Data) (Scotland) Act 2020

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 3 September 2025 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Quality Meat Scotland Annual Report and Accounts 2024-2025 (SG/2025/183)
laid under Section 22 (5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000 and Article 12 of the Quality Meat Scotland Order 2008

The Social Security (Residence and Presence Requirements) (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2025: Statement made under section 97(9)(b) of the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 (SG/2025/185) laid under section 97(9)(b) of the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018

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