



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 24, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 4 September 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. Peak Rail Fares Abolished: The Parliament debated S6M-18570 in the name of Bob Doris—That the Parliament notes the Scottish Government's reported decision to abolish peak rail fares in Scotland; acknowledges what it sees as the ambition to make public transport more affordable and help people with the rising cost of living; considers that initiatives such as the abolition of peak rail fares can encourage more people to switch from cars and opt to use the train; believes that this can help tackle inequalities by making commuting, day trips and access to leisure activities more affordable, and notes the view that passengers in the Maryhill and Springburn constituency should be encouraged to use this opportunity, not only for the daily commute but to see all that Scotland has to offer.

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

5. Ministerial Statement: The Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy and Sport (Maree Todd) made a statement and answered questions on Drug-related Deaths in Scotland in 2024 and the National Mission to Reduce Deaths and Improve the Lives of People Impacted by Drugs.

6. The 2022/23 and 2023/24 Audits of the Water Industry Commission for Scotland: Richard Leonard, on behalf of the Public Audit Committee, moved S6M-18680—That the Parliament notes the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Public Audit Committee's 1st Report, 2025 (Session 6), The 2022/23 and 2023/24 audits of the Water Industry Commission for Scotland (SP Paper 783).

The motion was agreed to (DT).

7. Employment Rights Bill - UK Legislation: The Minister for Social Care and Mental Wellbeing (Tom Arthur) moved S6M-18704—That the Parliament agrees that the amendments tabled on 7 July 2025 to clauses 44 to 46 and 49 of the Employment Rights Bill, introduced in the House of Commons on 10 October 2024, in relation to the establishment of the Social Care Negotiating Body for Scotland, so far as these amendments further alter the executive competence of the Scottish Ministers, should be considered by the UK Parliament.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 71 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 0, Abstentions 26).

8. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 6 and 7 as noted above.

The meeting closed at 5.07 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
4 September 2025

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 4 September 2025—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 59th Report, 2025 (Session 6): Delegated Powers in the Housing (Scotland) Bill (as amended at Stage 2) (SP Paper 853)

Subordinate Legislation

Negative Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 4 September 2025 and are subject to the negative procedure—

Plant Health (Export Certification) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2025 (SSI 2025/241)
laid under section 6 of the Plant Health Act 1967

National Health Service (Common Staffing Method) (Scotland) Amendment (No. 2) Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/244)
laid under section 105(2) of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978

Motor Vehicles (Competitions and Trials) (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/245)
laid under section 195(3) Road Traffic Act 1988

Laid Only Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 4 September 2025 and is not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Aggregates Tax and Devolved Taxes Administration (Scotland) Act 2024 (Commencement No. 2) Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/243 (C.20))
laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

Other Documents

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 4 September 2025 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Financial Reporting Advisory Board Annual Report 2024-25 (SG/2025/158) laid at the request of a member of the Scottish Government and not under any laying power

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