



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 27, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 11 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 the Deputy First Minister, Cabinet Secretaries and a Minister.

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

3. Scottish Youth Parliament's Work on Transport: The Parliament debated S6M-17147 in the name of Sarah Boyack—That the Parliament acknowledges the efforts of the Scottish Youth Parliament's Transport, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee to remove barriers to young people accessing public transport; notes the view that public transport should be affordable, accessible and reliable for young people across Scotland, including in the Lothian region; further notes the view that particular action should be taken for young people in rural and island communities who, it considers, currently benefit less from the Young Persons' (Under 22s) Free Bus Travel scheme due to limited bus services and infrastructure in their areas; recognises what it sees as the benefits that affordable, accessible and reliable public transport have for young people's access to social, educational, youth work and employment opportunities, and notes the support for further action to be taken to improve young people's access to public transport.

4. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Social Justice and Housing were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and a Minister.

5. Ministerial Statement: The Minister for Public Finance (Ivan McKee) made a statement and answered questions on GFG Business Operations in Scotland.

6. Supporting Scottish Exports in Response to Global Uncertainty: The Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic (Kate Forbes) moved S6M-18795—That the Parliament recognises that demand for Scottish exports is strong due to Scotland's high-quality products and services, and its excellence in sectors such as food and drink, professional, scientific, and technical activities; notes that global trade challenges, including geopolitical uncertainty, Brexit, and trade tariffs, are having a detrimental impact on Scottish businesses; welcomes the Scottish Government's Six Point Export Plan, which is supporting Scottish businesses to respond to these challenges; notes that the additional support being provided, builds on effective and continued delivery of A Trading Nation, the Scottish Government's export growth strategy, as indicated through Scottish Enterprise's highest ever level of forecast export sales in 2024-25; acknowledges that meaningful collaboration between partners to promote Scotland internationally, using the Scottish Government-led award-winning Brand Scotland collateral, will boost awareness of Scotland's strengths and increase opportunities for export growth, and calls on the UK Government to fully address the continuing impacts of Brexit on Scottish and UK trade by rejoining the European Union, and reverse its damaging decision to increase employers' national insurance contributions, which is harming business confidence and Scotland's economy.

Murdo Fraser moved amendment S6M-18795.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-18795 in the name of Kate Forbes (Supporting Scottish Exports in Response to Global Uncertainty), leave out from first "notes" to end and insert "recognises that Scottish exporters operate in a competitive global market and benefit from the UK's ability to secure strategic trade deals and participate in global trading blocs, including the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership; recognises that agreements with India and the US mark a positive start in expanding opportunities for Scottish businesses in these important markets, alongside deals with partners such as Australia, Japan and Singapore; highlights that Scotland's key sectors, including engineering, advanced manufacturing, food and drink, energy, chemical sciences, and financial services, thrive because of enterprise, innovation and private investment rather than government brand campaigns; welcomes the strength of Scotland's defence sector in winning major export orders, exemplified by the £10 billion Type 26 frigate agreement with Norway for Scotland-manufactured warships that will sustain thousands of skilled jobs and growth across Scotland's wider manufacturing base; rejects calls to rejoin the EU, which would risk regulatory uncertainty and distract from delivering meaningful support; regrets that the Scottish Government continues to use trade policy to promote constitutional division, rather than business confidence, and calls for both of Scotland's governments to focus on cutting costs for employers, reducing unnecessary regulation, simplifying trade routes and working in genuine partnership with industry to grow Scotland's exports and secure jobs."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 26, Against 88 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

Daniel Johnson moved amendment S6M-18795.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-18795 in the name of Kate Forbes (Supporting Scottish Exports in Response to Global Uncertainty), leave out from first "notes" to end and insert "welcomes UK Government action to strengthen international alliances and reduce trade barriers with economies around the world through diplomacy and the delivery of trade deals with India, the US and the EU; calls on the Scottish Government to stop contributing to instability for business through its repeated calls for an independence referendum, and believes that exporting to the rest of the UK, Scotland's biggest trading partner, is a key stepping stone for international exports, and that both should be imbedded in business support from day one."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 23 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 91 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0).

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 60, Against 49 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 7 (including 1 proxy vote)).

7. Decision Time: The Parliament took a decision on item 6 as noted above.

The meeting closed at 5.10 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
11 September 2025

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

Subordinate Legislation

Negative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 11 September 2025 and is subject to the negative procedure—

Council Tax (Dwellings and Part Residential Subjects) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/249)
laid under section 113(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992

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