



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 28, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 16 September 2025

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Time for Reflection: David Jarvis, Speaking SBC, led Time for Reflection.

2. Revision to Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-18918—That the Parliament agrees to the following revisions to the programme of business for—
(a) Tuesday 16 September 2025—

delete

10.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

and insert

8.35 pm Decision Time

(b) Wednesday 17 September 2025—

delete

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

and insert

followed by Ministerial Statement: Alexander Dennis Limited

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

delete

5.00 pm Decision Time

and insert

4.20 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

The motion was agreed to.

3. Topical Questions: Questions were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and a Minister.

4. Stage 3 Timetable : The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-18901—That the Parliament agrees that, during stage 3 of the Victims, Witnesses, and Justice Reform (Scotland) Bill, debate on groups of amendments shall, subject to Rule 9.8.4A, be brought to a conclusion by the time limits indicated, those time limits being calculated from when the stage begins and excluding any periods when other business is under consideration or when a meeting of the Parliament is suspended or otherwise not in progress:

Groups 1 to 4: 50 minutes

Groups 5 to 7: 1 hour 50 minutes

Groups 8 to 10: 2 hours 35 minutes

Groups 11 to 13: 3 hours 35 minutes

Groups 14 to 16: 4 hours 20 minutes

Groups 17 to 19: 5 hours 10 minutes

Groups 20 to 22: 6 hours

The motion was agreed to.

5. Victims, Witnesses, and Justice Reform (Scotland) Bill: The Bill was considered at Stage 3.

The following amendments were agreed to (without division): 4, 5, 59, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 33, 34, 35, 36, 60, 61, 37, 62, 38, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 39, 83, 84, 105A, 105B, 105C, 105D, 105E, 105, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 54, 56, 57, 3, 147A, 147, 151, 152A, 152B, 152C, 152, 1, 2, 153, 155, 156, 58, 94, 95, 161, 162, 163, 164 and 165.

The following amendments were agreed to (by division)—

21 (For 96 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 0, Abstentions 17)

64 (For 58 (including 3 proxy votes), Against 56, Abstentions 0)

87 (For 97 (including 2 proxy votes, Against 19 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)

55 (For 63 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 48 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 1)

The following amendments were disagreed to (by division)—

96 (For 40 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 58, Abstentions 17 (including 1 proxy vote))

31 (For 51 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 62 (including 1 proxy votes), Abstentions 0)

63 (For 50 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 64 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)

102 (For 51 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 57, Abstentions 7 (including 1 proxy vote))

101 (For 53 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 61 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)

85 (For 54 (including 3 proxy votes), Against 59, Abstentions 0)

106 (For 45 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 71 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0)

46 (For 28, Against 86 (including 3 proxy votes), Abstentions 0)

108 (For 27, Against 80 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 7 (including 1 proxy vote))

53 (For 42 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 69 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0)

109 (For 45 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 66 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)

114 (For 47 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 65 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)

115 (For 46 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 65 (including 1 proxy votes), Abstentions 0)

148 (For 12 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 101 (including 1 proxy votes), Abstentions 0)

150 (For 52 (including 3 proxy votes), Against 61, Abstentions 0).

The following amendments were moved and, no member having objected, withdrawn: 86, 157.

The following amendments were not moved: 97, 98, 99, 100, 32, 65, 104, 103, 107, 110, 111, 112, 113, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 149, 154, 158, 159 and 160.

The Deputy Presiding Officer exercised their power under Rule 9.8.4A(c) to allow the debate to continue beyond the agreed time limit.

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6. Decision Time: There were no decisions to be taken at Decision Time on the items noted above.

The meeting closed at 8.48 pm.

David McGill

Clerk of the Parliament
16 September 2025

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

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 16 September 2025—

Finance and Public Administration Committee, 9th Report, 2025 (Session 6):
Report on Commissioner nominees to the Scottish Fiscal Commission (SP
Paper 859)

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee, 11th Report, 2025 (Session 6):
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee Report on the Supplementary
Legislative Consent Memorandum for the Planning and Infrastructure Bill (SP
Paper 860)

The following report will be published on 17 September 2025—

Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee, 3rd Report, 2025
(Session 6): Report on the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice
Committee inquiry into Civil Legal Assistance in Scotland (SP Paper 858)

Subordinate Legislation

Documents Subject to Parliamentary Control

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 16 September 2025 and
are subject to parliamentary control—

Draft Code of Practice: The Non-Party Campaigner Campaign Expenditure (Scottish
Parliament Elections) Code of Practice 2025 (SG/2025/214)
laid under section 100BA of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums
Act 2000

Draft statutory guidance on imprints for non-party campaigners at Scottish
Parliamentary elections and council elections in Scotland (SG/2025/215)
laid under section 58 of the Scottish Elections (Representation and Reform)
Act 2025

Affirmative Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 16 September 2025
and are subject to the affirmative procedure—

Equality Act 2010 (Specification of Public Authorities) (Scotland) Order 2025 [Draft]
laid under section 210(2) of the Equality Act 2010

Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2025 [Draft]
laid under section 210(2) of the Equality Act 2010

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 16 September 2025 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

NHS Borders Annual Report & Accounts 2024/25 (SG/2025/190) laid under section 22 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Dumfries and Galloway NHS Board Annual Report and Accounts For Year Ended 31 March 2025 (SG/2025/191) laid under section 22 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

NHS Fife Annual report and consolidated accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (SG/2025/192) laid under section 22 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Fiscal Sustainability Perspectives: Climate Change Mitigation – September 2025 (SFC/2025/8) laid under section 5(3) of the Scottish Fiscal Commission Act 2016

Forth Valley NHS Board Annual Report and Accounts 2024/25 (SG/2025/193) laid under section 22 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Annual Report and Consolidated Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2025 (SG/2025/194) laid under section 22 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Press Recognition Panel - Annual Report and Financial Statements for year ended 31 March 2025 (SG/2025/170) laid under sections 12.4 and 13.1 of the Royal Charter on Self- Regulation of the Press

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