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 (Nicola Sturgeon).

3. **Long-term Decline in Salmon Stocks:** The Parliament debated S5M-15657 in the name of Rachael Hamilton—That the Parliament notes the reported long-term decline in salmon stocks across Scotland's major rivers, including the Tweed, the Spey, the Dee and the Tay; understands that catches have decreased over the last decade; notes that, on the Tweed, rod catches have fallen from 23,219 in 2012 to 6,577 in 2017; believes that this is marginally above the previous worst years, 1977 and 1980; understands that angling in Scotland supports around 2,800 jobs and contributes £100 million to the economy; acknowledges that fishing generates significant employment opportunities in rural areas; recognises that there are significant challenges ahead if salmon stocks are to return to previous levels, and notes the calls for the Scottish Government to take urgent action to devise effective conservation and management plans in conjunction with relevant bodies to help address what it sees as the persistent decline in salmon stocks.

4. **Motion Without Notice:** Rachael Hamilton moved without notice that, under Rule 8.14.3, the debate be extended by up to 30 minutes. The motion was agreed to.

5. **Portfolio Questions:** Questions on Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and a Minister.
6. **Transport (Scotland) Bill**: The Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity (Michael Matheson) moved S5M-16747—That the Parliament agrees to the general principles of the Transport (Scotland) Bill.

After debate, the motion was agreed to (DT).

7. **Transport (Scotland) Bill – Financial Resolution**: The Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Economy and Fair Work (Derek Mackay) moved S5M-16393—That the Parliament, for the purposes of any Act of the Scottish Parliament resulting from the Transport (Scotland) Bill, agrees to—

(a) any expenditure of a kind referred to in Rule 9.12.3(b) of the Parliament’s Standing Orders arising in consequence of the Act, and

(b) any charge or payment in relation to which Rule 9.12.4 of the Standing Orders applies arising in consequence of the Act.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

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

The meeting closed at 5.01 pm.

P E Grice
Clerk of the Parliament
4 April 2019
Appendix  
(Note: this Appendix does not form part of the Minutes)

Committee Reports

For further information on accessing committee reports, please contact the relevant clerk or webpage (see end of Bulletin for contact details or access general committee webpage)

Other Documents

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 4 April 2019 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Scottish Government: Annual report on procurement activity in Scotland 2019
SG/2019/18 laid under Section 21(4)(b) of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014