



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 100, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 22 April 2025

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Time for Reflection: Rev Norman Afrin, Minister, Sandyhills Parish Church, led Time for Reflection.

2. Revision to Business: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-17265—That the Parliament agrees to the following revisions to the programme of business for Tuesday 22 April 2025—

delete

followed by Topical Questions

insert

followed by Motion of Condolence

followed by Topical Questions

followed by Ministerial Statement: The Supreme Court's Judgment in Relation to Gender Representation on Public Boards (Scotland) Act 2018

delete

5.00 pm Decision Time

and insert

5.45 pm Decision Time

The motion was agreed to.

3. Motion of Condolence: The Parliament debated S6M-17250 in the name of John Swinney—That the Parliament expresses its deep sadness at the death of Pope Francis; conveys its condolences to all those in the Roman Catholic community in Scotland and beyond; affirms the affection in which His Holiness was held by people across the world, and expresses gratitude for his lifetime of devotion and dedicated public service.

The motion was agreed to.

4. Topical Questions: Questions were answered by Cabinet Secretaries.

5. Ministerial Statement: The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice (Shirley-Anne Somerville) made a statement and answered questions on The Supreme Court's Judgment in Relation to Gender Representation on Public Boards (Scotland) Act 2018.

6. Scottish Government Debate: The International Situation: The Parliament debated The International Situation.

7. Committee Membership: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-17266— That the Parliament agrees that—

Joe FitzPatrick be appointed as a member of the Education, Children and Young People Committee; and

Emma Roddick be appointed to replace Joe FitzPatrick as a member of the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 109 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 1, Abstentions 0).

8. Substitution on Committees: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-17267— That the Parliament agrees that Stephanie Callaghan be appointed to replace Jackie Dunbar as the Scottish National Party substitute on the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 108 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 1, Abstentions 0).

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

10. Addressing Waiting Times in NHS Grampian: The Parliament debated S6M-17011 in the name of Douglas Lumsden—That the Parliament notes the reported concerns regarding challenges that NHS Grampian is facing in relation to staffing shortages and resource limitations, which it understands has contributed to delays in

patient care and increased pressure on existing medical personnel; acknowledges that, in September 2024, NHS Grampian reported that over 3,000 patients were waiting over two years for hospital treatment, which it believes was the highest number among Scottish NHS boards; understands that, in November 2024, NHS Grampian declared a board level critical incident, which led to the diversion of ambulance patients to hospitals outside the region due in part to sustained pressures at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary; notes that, in late November 2024, NHS Grampian experienced a significant rise in delayed discharges, with 199 cases, which according to the NHS board accounted for 13% of all beds in the region; believes that hospitals in the area are using outdated medical equipment, including an MRI scanner and an X-ray machine that are 15 and 27 years old, respectively, and notes the calls for the Scottish Government to develop an urgent plan to tackle what it regards as the ongoing issues within NHS Grampian that are impacting on patient care and service delivery.

The meeting closed at 6.46 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
22 April 2025

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 7 April 2025—

Education, Children and Young People Committee, 4th Report, 2025 (Session 6): The Social Security Information-sharing (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2025 [draft] (SP Paper 768)

The following report was published on 15 April 2025—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 24th Report, 2025 (Session 6): Supplementary Delegated powers in the Regulation of Legal Services (Scotland) Bill (as amended at Stage 2) (SP Paper 766)

The following report was published on 22 April 2025—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 25th Report, 2025 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation Considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 22 April 2025 (SP Paper 769)

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 4 April 2025 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Annual Report on Procurement Activity in Scotland: An overview of procurement activity 2022 – 2023 (SG/2025/71) laid under Section 21(4)(b) of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014

Scrutiny report on: People with communication needs and the Scottish social security system: fulfilling the expectations of ‘Our Charter’ (SCoSS/2025/07) laid under section 22 of the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 7 April 2025 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Parole Board for Scotland Annual Report 2023/24 (SG/2025/34) laid under Schedule 2, paragraph 6 of the Prisoners and Criminal Proceedings (Scotland) Act 1993

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 8 April 2025 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

The Electoral Commission Corporate Plan (ELC/2025/01) laid under Schedule 1, Paragraph 15A of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000

Fiscal Sustainability Report - April 2025 (SFC/2025/3) laid under section 5(3) of the Scottish Fiscal Commission Act 2016

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 11 April 2025 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Scottish Biometrics Commissioner – Revised Strategic Plan (SBC/2025/03) laid under Section 28(4) of the Scottish Biometrics Commissioners Act 2020

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 22 April 2025 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Ayrshire College Board of Management Report and Financial Statements For the year ended 31 July 2024 (SG/2025/46) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Borders College Annual Report and Financial Statement 2023/24 (SG/2025/47) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Dumfries and Galloway College Annual Report and Financial Statements for the period 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2024 (SG/2025/49) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Dundee and Angus College Report and Financial Statements For the Year ended 31 July 2024 (SG/2025/50) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Edinburgh College Annual Report and Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 July 2024 (SG/2025/51) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Fife College Annual Accounts For the year ended 31 July 2024 (SG/2025/52) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Forth Valley College of Further and Higher Education Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2024 (SG/2025/53) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

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