



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 102, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 24 April 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. BBC Scotland's Decision to End River City and Close its Dumbarton Studios: The Parliament debated S6M-16978 in the name of Neil Bibby—That the Parliament notes with regret the reported decision by BBC Scotland to end the programme, River City, which it understands is Scotland's only homegrown soap; believes that this will have a disproportionately negative impact on performers in Scotland, many of whom, it understands, get their first TV job on River City, as well as on the wider Scottish production landscape; considers that the reported £9 million annual budget for the show is excellent value for money, given the hours of programming produced throughout the year for what it sees as a successful show, which, it understands, attracts a regular audience of 500,000 per episode, outperforming other TV series by more than two and a half times; believes that the Glasgow-based show is well loved by Scottish audiences and enjoys strong ratings, with it winning Best Drama at the Royal Television Society Scotland 2023 awards for its 20th anniversary episode; notes what it sees as BBC Scotland's failure to inform the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee of its reported plans to close the BBC studios in Dumbarton and end River City in its annual report to the Parliament in January 2025; further notes the calls for BBC Scotland to recognise its public broadcasting duty and explain how its current proposals to

replace River City will provide the same good jobs, training and apprenticeships currently available at the BBC's Dumbarton studios to performers and crew in Scotland, and ensure that the reported £9 million budget will be spent on Scottish drama; considers the BBC's Dumbarton studios to be an important asset, which has been used for a number of other productions, including Vigil and Shetland; understands that the owner of the studios site is open to renewing the lease, and notes the calls, in light of this, for BBC Scotland to revisit its reported decision to end River City and close its Dumbarton studios.

4. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Education and Skills were answered by Ministers.

5. Inquiry into Framework Legislation and Henry VIII Powers: Stuart McMillan, on behalf of the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, moved S6M-17074—That the Parliament notes the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee's 21st Report, 2025 (Session 6), Inquiry into Framework Legislation and Henry VIII powers (SP Paper 762).

The motion was agreed to (DT)

6. Decision Time: The Parliament took a decision on item 5 as noted above.

The meeting closed at 5.01 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
24 April 2025

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

Subordinate Legislation

Negative Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 24 April 2025 and are subject to the negative procedure—

Council Tax Reduction (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) (No. 2) Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/112)

laid under section 113(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992

Firefighters' Pensions (Remediable Service) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/113)

laid under section 24(2) of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013

Police Pensions (Remediable Service) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/114)

laid under section 24(2) of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013

Laid Only Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 24 April 2025 and is not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Children (Care and Justice) (Scotland) Act 2024 (Commencement No. 2) Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/115 (C. 12))

laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 24 April 2025 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

New College Lanarkshire Regional Financial Statements Year Ended: 31st July 2024 (SG/2025/66) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

South Lanarkshire College Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st July 2024 (SG/2025/65) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

UHI Inverness College Annual Report & Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2024 (SG/2025/64) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

**West College Scotland Annual Accounts and Financial Statements
(SG/2025/62)** laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability
(Scotland) Act 2000

**West Lothian College Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31
July 2024 (SG/2025/63)** laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and
Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

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