



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 61, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 16 December 2025

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Time for Reflection: Rev Gordon Kennedy, Minister, Craiglockhart Parish Church, led Time for Reflection.

2. Revision to Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-20196—That the Parliament agrees to the following revision to the programme of business for Tuesday 25 November 2025—

(a) Tuesday 16 December 2025—

after

followed by Topical Questions

insert

followed by Motion of No Confidence

(b) Thursday 18 December 2025—

delete

3.10 pm Decision Time

and insert

2.40 pm Decision Time

The motion was agreed to.

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

4. Motion of No Confidence: Russell Findlay moved S6M-20135—That the Parliament has no confidence in the Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs, in light of her failures in candour and openness in her misrepresentation and subsequent misleading statements made to the Parliament with regards to Professor Alexis Jay and grooming gangs.

The motion was disagreed to by division: For 57, Against 67 (including 2 proxy votes Abstentions 1).

5. Dog Theft (Scotland) Bill: The Bill was considered at Stage 3.

The following amendment was agreed to (without division): 1

6. Dog Theft (Scotland) Bill: Maurice Golden moved S6M-20167—That the Parliament agrees that the Dog Theft (Scotland) Bill be passed.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 119 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 2, Abstentions 0).

7. Schools (Residential Outdoor Education) (Scotland) Bill: The Bill was considered at Stage 3.

The following amendments were agreed to (without division): 1, 2, 10, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9.

The following amendments were disagreed to (by division)—

11 (For 1, Against 95 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 18).

8. Schools (Residential Outdoor Education) (Scotland) Bill: Liz Smith moved S6M-20138—That the Parliament agrees that the Schools (Residential Outdoor Education) (Scotland) Bill be passed.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 120 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 0, Abstentions 1).

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

10. Rona Mackay: Awareness of Aphasia: The Parliament debated S6M-18720 in the name of Rona Mackay—That the Parliament notes that aphasia, which is a

language disorder that affects one in three stroke survivors, and can also arise with other neurological conditions or head injuries, can have a significant impact on many people; understands that it can affect speech production and understanding, reading, writing and using numbers and that the level of difficulty experienced varies from person to person, from mild to severe; recognises the significant impact aphasia can have on a person's life, including leading to feelings of isolation, loneliness and mental health issues; notes the impact that aphasia can have on a person's relationships with family and friends, everyday social interactions and access to work or services, as well as the stigma and negative treatment that can arise from living with the condition; welcomes the ongoing work of Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland (CHSS) to support people living with aphasia through resources and services; further welcomes the new CHSS course, Living Well with Aphasia, which focuses on giving stroke survivors the information, skills and resources to live well with the condition; notes the calls on the Scottish Government, NHS boards and other key organisations to be better informed about aphasia and to have a greater understanding of the reality of living with what can be a serious and potentially devastating health condition, and further notes the calls to improve access to supported self-management and rehabilitation services for people living with aphasia in Strathkelvin and Bearsden and across the country, to ensure that everyone gets the support that they deserve.

The meeting closed at 6.45 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
16 December 2025

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

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 12 December 2025—

Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee, 8th Report, 2025 (Session 6): Pre-Budget scrutiny 2026-27: Human Rights Budgeting (SP Paper 930)

Criminal Justice Committee, 12th Report, 2025 (Session 6): Cybercrime and cyber-security in Scotland (SP Paper 933)

The following report was published on 15 December 2025—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 93rd Report, 2025 (Session 6): Delegated powers in the Dog Theft (Scotland) Bill (as amended at Stage 2) (SP Paper 936)

The following reports were published on 16 December 2025—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 94th Report, 2025 (Session 6): Delegated powers in the Schools (Residential Outdoor Education) (Scotland) Bill (as amended at Stage 2) (SP Paper 937)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 95th Report, 2025 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 16 December 2025 (SP Paper 939)

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was withdrawn on 12 December 2025—

Good Food Nation (Specified Functions and Descriptions) (Scottish Ministers) Regulations 2025 [draft]

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 15 December 2025 and are subject to the affirmative procedure—

Criminal Legal Aid and Assistance by Way of Representation (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2026 [draft]
laid under section 37(2) of the Legal Aid (Scotland) Act 1986

Legal Aid and Advice and Assistance (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2026 [draft]
laid under section 37(2) of the Legal Aid (Scotland) Act 1986

Laid Only Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 12 December 2025 and are not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Scottish Parliament Elections (Returning Officer Fees and Charges) Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/394)

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

Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022 (Commencement No. 4) Revocation Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/395)

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

Legislative Consent Memorandum

The following memorandum was lodged on 12 December 2025—

Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Transport: Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Railways Bill (UK Parliament legislation) (LCM-S6-69)

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 15 December 2025 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Scottish Environment Protection Agency: Annual Report and Accounts 2024/25 (SG/2025/254) laid under Section 46 of the Environment Act 1995 and Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Architecture and Design Scotland Annual Report and Accounts For the year ending 31 March 2025 (SG/2025/311) laid under Section 19(4) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

The United Kingdom Sports Council Grant-in-Aid and National Lottery Distribution Fund Annual Report and Accounts 2024-25 For the year ended 31 March 2025 (SG/2025/297) laid under Section 88 of the Scotland Act 1998

Forestry and Land Scotland Annual Report and Accounts 2024-25 (SG/2025/81) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh: Annual Report and Accounts 2024/25 (SG/2025/327) laid under section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

NatureScot Scotland's Nature Agency Annual Report and Accounts 2024/25 (SG/2025/236) laid under Section 26 of the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 and Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

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

Scottish Social Services Council Annual Report and Accounts 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 (SG/2025/106) laid under Schedule 2, Section 10(1) of the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001 and Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Crown Estate Scotland Annual Report and Accounts to 31 March 2025 (SG/2025/328) laid under Section 22(5a) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Historic Environment Scotland Annual Report and Financial Statements 2024-25 (SG/2025/139) laid under Section 14(3) of Schedule 1 of the Historic Environment Scotland Act 2014

The 2024/25 audit of Historic Environment Scotland (SG/2025/307) laid under Section 22 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Act 2019, Statutory Review Period Report to Scottish Parliament December 2025 (SG/2025/324) laid under section 78 of The Age of Criminal Responsibility (ACR) (Scotland) Act 2019

TS Prestwick HoldCo LTD Annual Report and Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2025 (SG/2025/321) laid under section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Scottish Futures Trust Limited Annual Report And Accounts For The Year Ended 31 March 2025 (SG/2025/308) laid under section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Scottish Futures Trust Investments Limited Annual Report And Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 March 2025 (SG/2025/309) laid under section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Annual Report of the Investigatory Powers Commissioner 2024 (SG/2025/160) laid under section 234 (6) & (8) of the Investigatory Powers Act (IPA) 2016

Annual Report (2024) of the Investigatory Powers Commissioner - Statement by the Prime Minister on 16 December 2025 (SG/2025/161) laid under section 234(8) of the Investigatory Powers Act (IPA) 2016

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