



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 11, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 4 June 2025

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

**1. Portfolio Questions:** Questions on Constitution, External Affairs and Culture, and Parliamentary Business, then on Justice and Home Affairs, and then on Education and Skills, were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.

**2. Empowering Entrepreneurs and Innovators:** The Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic (Kate Forbes) moved S6M-17785— That the Parliament supports the Scottish Government’s ambition to establish Scotland as one of Europe’s fastest-growing start-up economies; welcomes the significant progress made towards this goal; congratulates Ana Stewart on her appointment as Scotland’s new Chief Entrepreneur, and welcomes the record investment of over £30 million to accelerate Scotland’s emergence as a leading hub for innovation, entrepreneurship and high-growth businesses.

Murdo Fraser moved amendment S6M-17785.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-17785 in the name of Kate Forbes (Empowering Entrepreneurs and Innovators), leave out from “supports” to end and insert “calls on the Scottish Government to make greater effort to support businesses and entrepreneurship in Scotland; notes concerns identified by the Fraser of Allander Institute that only 9% of Scottish businesses believe that the Scottish Government understands the business community, and that the New Deal for Business has caused this relationship to stagnate further; recognises that Scotland has a lower business birth rate and stock rate compared to the rest of the UK, which has hindered entrepreneurship; congratulates Ana

Stewart on her appointment as Scotland's new Chief Entrepreneur, but believes that a new approach is needed to deliver the high-growth economy that businesses and entrepreneurs need; welcomes the publication of Lessons from Singapore for Scotland's Economy by the Hunter Foundation, which urges the Scottish and UK governments to stop punishing entrepreneurs, deliver a long-term growth strategy and foster a more business-friendly environment through lower taxation, and believes that entrepreneurship and innovation can be enhanced through Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party plans to drive economic growth by cutting taxes for workers and businesses."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 28, Against 83 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

Daniel Johnson moved amendment S6M-17785.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-17785 in the name of Kate Forbes (Empowering Entrepreneurs and Innovators), insert at end “; believes that Scottish businesses across sectors have not had adequate support from the Scottish Government to break down barriers to innovation, and that support must extend beyond start-up stage to provide advice and investment for scaling up; notes that the proportion of businesses in Scotland that are innovating, that is those introducing or developing a new product, service or process, has fallen from 50% in 2012-14 to just 32% in 2020-22, and calls on the Scottish Government to reform Scotland's economic agencies to better support entrepreneurs and innovation in sectors across Scotland, including capital intensive sectors like life sciences and advanced manufacturing.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 55 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 57 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 84 (including 3 proxy votes), Against 28, Abstentions 0).

**3. Business Programme:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-17801—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 10 June 2025

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Topical Questions (if selected)

*followed by* Stage 3 Proceedings: Care Reform (Scotland) Bill

*followed by* Committee Announcements

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

7.00 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Wednesday 11 June 2025

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Deputy First Minister Responsibilities, Economy and Gaelic; Finance and Local Government

*followed by* Scottish Labour Party Business

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Approval of SSIs (if required)

5.10 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Thursday 12 June 2025

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

*followed by* Members' Business

2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.30 pm Portfolio Questions: Net Zero and Energy, and Transport

*followed by* Ministerial Statement: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Statistics 2023

*followed by* Scottish Government Debate: A Migration System that Works for Scotland

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 17 June 2025

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Topical Questions (if selected)

*followed by* Stage 3 Proceedings: Scottish Languages Bill

*followed by* Committee Announcements

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Wednesday 18 June 2025

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands; Health and Social Care

*followed by* Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party Business

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Approval of SSIs (if required)

5.10 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Thursday 19 June 2025

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

*followed by* Members' Business

2.15 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.15 pm Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body Questions

*followed by* Portfolio Questions: Social Justice

*followed by* Scottish Government Business

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

(b) that, for the purposes of Portfolio Questions in the week beginning 9 June 2025, in rule 13.7.3, after the word “except” the words “to the extent to which the Presiding Officer considers that the questions are on the same or similar subject matter or” are inserted.

The motion was agreed to.

**4. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-17802—That the Parliament agrees that the Regional Strategic Bodies and Regional Colleges (Glasgow and Lanarkshire) Order 2025 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**5. Committee Meeting Times:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-17803—That the Parliament agrees that, under Rule 12.3.3B of Standing Orders, the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee can meet, if necessary, at the same time as a meeting of the Parliament between 1.00 pm and 3.30 pm on Thursday 12 June 2025.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**6. Decision Time:** The Parliament took decisions on items 2, 4 and 5 as noted above.

**7. Celebrating 50 Years of Summerston:** The Parliament debated S6M-16094 in the name of Bob Doris—That the Parliament congratulates the community of Summerston, in the Glasgow Maryhill and Springburn constituency, on reaching the significant milestone of having been established for 50 years; understands that the first residents settled in the area from late 1974; believes that, in the years that followed, they witnessed a strong, close knit and civically-minded community develop; recognises the contribution of all those who have been involved in building Summerston's community spirit over the decades, none more so than Billy Souter who sadly passed away this year; commends the Summerston Community and Environmental Group (SCEG) on its efforts to both improve the area's environment and celebrate the five decades of Summerston as a community; acknowledges the work of SCEG in, it believes, it being "hands on" in its efforts to enhance the local area; notes that a community action plan was developed by SCEG following a major community consultation to help further improve the area; believes that a successful, piper-led, winter lantern parade, supported by Summerston schoolchildren and the wider community took place on the 27 November 2024 to mark the 50th anniversary, which kickstarted a number of events planned over the next 12 months; considers that constructive community activism and participation is a key component in helping communities such as Summerston prosper; supports the coming year's activities, and wishes the people of Summerston every success on the area continuing to thrive for the next 50 years and beyond.

The meeting closed at 5.38 pm.

**David McGill**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
4 June 2025

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

**Committee Reports**

The following report was published on 4 June 2025—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 41st Report, 2025 (Session 6): Instruments considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee during the fourth quarter of the Parliamentary Year 2024-25 (SP Paper 812)

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