



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 14, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 11 June 2025

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

The meeting opened at 2 pm.

1. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Deputy First Minister Responsibilities, Economy and Gaelic: Finance and Local Government were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.

2. Addressing Scotland's Medical and Nursing Workforce Crisis: Jackie Baillie moved S6M-17869—That the Parliament recognises the scale of the crisis in Scotland's NHS, with almost one in six people in Scotland on NHS waiting lists for tests or treatment, and private hospital admissions in Scotland reaching record levels in 2024, all while patients struggle to access a GP appointment; is concerned, therefore, regarding reports that resident doctors are unable to secure speciality training places in Scotland's NHS, while newly qualified nurses cannot get jobs despite over 2,600 unfilled whole-time equivalent nursing and midwifery vacancies; regrets that inadequate NHS workforce planning by the Scottish National Party administration is forcing highly skilled clinicians to seek employment elsewhere, and calls on the Scottish Government to expedite its reported Future Medical Workforce project, and to report back to the Parliament by 1 September 2025, and undertake a wider review of workforce planning, with independent modelling and projections, and to report back by 1 December 2025, so that there is the required level of workforce to staff Scotland's NHS.

The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care (Neil Gray) moved amendment S6M-17869.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-17869 in the name of Jackie Baillie (Addressing Scotland's Medical and Nursing Workforce Crisis), leave out from "recognises" to end and insert "acknowledges the challenges facing the NHS and the critical contribution of its workforce; thanks the dedicated NHS staff for their hard work and professionalism in times of enormous pressure; notes with concern that too many people are waiting too long for treatment and welcomes, therefore, additional funding to reduce patient waits and deliver 150,000 extra appointments and procedures in 2025; acknowledges the challenges in primary care and community health settings, where too many people face difficulties making a GP appointment; recognises the calls for greater workforce planning to account for the changing landscape of delivering healthcare, building on historically high levels of staffing; notes the Scottish Government's commitment to develop future workforce planning in response to the forthcoming population health and service renewal frameworks; believes that it is important that this work is informed by doctors working in the NHS through the Future Medical Workforce project, which will report on the planned dialogue, alongside an analysis of workforce demand and supply, by the end of 2025, while continuing with implementation of the Nursing and Midwifery Taskforce over the course of the year, and regrets deeply the UK Labour administration's reckless decision to close the health and care worker visa to adult social care, which will lead to acute workforce challenges and the closure of services, and have a devastating impact on both those receiving care and staff providing care."

Sandesh Gulhane moved amendment S6M-17869.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-17869 in the name of Jackie Baillie (Addressing Scotland's Medical and Nursing Workforce Crisis), after "vacancies;" insert "acknowledges that Scotland is experiencing a paradox of underemployed GPs who remain unable to find sufficient work despite widespread demand, as well as unemployed paramedics graduating from universities and paediatric nurses unable to secure roles; highlights that the Scottish National Party administration promised to increase GP numbers by 800 by 2027, but that this target is unlikely to be met as GP numbers are declining and junior doctors are struggling to find jobs; acknowledges that the Royal College of Nursing has claimed that current nursing staffing levels are inadequate, noting that, while the number of nurses employed by NHS Scotland has increased, levels of staff absence and agency use remain unsustainably high; references the report, The Nursing Workforce in Scotland 2025, which shows demand outstripping supply, and calls for better data to enable sustainable workforce planning; recognises that the Royal College of General Practitioners has criticised the Scottish Government's plan to provide 100,000 extra GP appointments, as Scotland's NHS currently does not have the workforce capacity to deliver this plan;".

After debate, amendment S6M-17869.2 was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 65 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 53, Abstentions 0). As a result, amendment S6M-17869.1 was pre-empted.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 62 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 53, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament acknowledges the challenges facing the NHS and the critical contribution of its workforce; thanks the dedicated NHS staff for their hard work and professionalism in times of enormous pressure; notes with concern that too many people are waiting too long for treatment and welcomes, therefore, additional funding to reduce patient waits and deliver 150,000 extra appointments and procedures in 2025; acknowledges the challenges in primary care and community health settings, where too many people face difficulties making a GP appointment; recognises the calls for greater workforce planning to account for the changing landscape of delivering healthcare, building on historically high levels of staffing; notes the Scottish Government's commitment to develop future workforce planning in response to the forthcoming population health and service renewal frameworks; believes that it is important that this work is informed by doctors working in the NHS through the Future Medical Workforce project, which will report on the planned dialogue, alongside an analysis of workforce demand and supply, by the end of 2025, while continuing with implementation of the Nursing and Midwifery Taskforce over the course of the year, and regrets deeply the UK Labour administration's reckless decision to close the health and care worker visa to adult social care, which will lead to acute workforce challenges and the closure of services, and have a devastating impact on both those receiving care and staff providing care.

3. Planning: Jackie Baillie moved S6M-17862—That the Parliament agrees that the Lomond Banks planning application for a development at Balloch should be called in for determination by the Scottish Ministers.

The Minister for Employment and Investment (Tom Arthur) moved amendment S6M-17862.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-17862 in the name of Jackie Baillie (Planning), insert at end “, and that any subsequent decision on the planning application should be made in a fair and impartial way that takes into account all relevant legal requirements and maintains the integrity of the planning process.”

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

Ross Greer moved amendment S6M-17862.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-17862 in the name of Jackie Baillie (Planning), insert at end “; believes that the significant public interest in this application and its location within a national park make it a matter of national interest, and asks that ministers assess the application's compatibility with National Planning Framework 4, as approved by the Parliament in 2023, and with the statutory aims of the national park.”

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

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 91 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 1, Abstentions 21).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament agrees that the Lomond Banks planning application for a development at Balloch should be called in for determination by the Scottish Ministers; that any subsequent decision on the planning application should be made in a fair and impartial way that takes into account all relevant legal requirements and maintains the integrity of the planning process; believes that the significant public interest in this application and its location within a national park make it a matter of national interest, and asks that ministers assess the application's compatibility with National Planning Framework 4, as approved by the Parliament in 2023, and with the statutory aims of the national park.

4. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-17894—That the Parliament agrees —

(a) the following programme of business —

Tuesday 17 June 2025

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Ministerial Statement: Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan - Annual Progress Report 2024-25

followed by Ministerial Statement: Delivering Reform and Renewal for Health and Social Care

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Scottish Languages Bill

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

6.00 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 Ministerial Statement: A Public Services Reform Strategy for Scotland

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Progressing NACWG Recommendations on Equality

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 24 June 2025

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Education (Scotland) Bill

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

10.00 pm Decision Time

Wednesday 25 June 2025

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Constitution, External Affairs and Culture, and Parliamentary Business; Justice and Home Affairs

followed by Stage 3 Debate: Education (Scotland) Bill

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Approval of SSIs (if required)

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 26 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: Education and Skills

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 16 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.

5. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-17895—That the Parliament agrees that the Town and Country Planning (Marine Fish Farming) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2025 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 85 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 32 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0).

6. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-17896—That the Parliament agrees that the Restitution Fund (Scotland) Order 2025 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

7. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-17897—That the Parliament agrees that the Social Security (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

8. Approval of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman: Statement of Complaints Handling Principles: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-17898—That the

Parliament agrees that the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman: Statement of Complaints Handling Principles (SPSO 2025/01) be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

9. Designation of Lead Committee: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-17899—That the Parliament agrees that the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the Crofting and Scottish Land Court Bill at stage 1.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

10. Designation of Lead Committee: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-17900—That the Parliament agrees that the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the Ecocide (Scotland) Bill at stage 1.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

11. Designation of Lead Committee: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-17901—That the Parliament agrees that the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the Freedom of Information Reform (Scotland) Bill at stage 1.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 as noted above.

60th Anniversary of the Scottish Law Commission: The Parliament debated S6M-17249 in the name of Stuart McMillan—That the Parliament congratulates all of the commissioners and staff of the Scottish Law Commission, past and present, on its 60th anniversary; notes that the Commission was established under the Law Commissions Act 1965, and that the Commission is Scotland's law reform body tasked with recommending reforms to simplify, modernise and improve Scots law; considers that outdated or complex laws can be inefficient, and do not serve the interests of the public or justice well; recognises that the Commission provides independent advice to the Scottish Government, often examining entire areas of law and making recommendations; notes that the Commission's work has led to a number of bills in the Scottish Parliament, including reforms abolishing feudal tenure and protecting adults incapable of managing their affairs; values the contribution of the Commission over the last 60 years, and notes that, since 2013, part of the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee's remit has been to scrutinise certain Scottish Law Commission Bills that comply with the Scottish Parliament's Standing Orders Rule 9.17A and the associated criteria determined by the Presiding Officer, with the Committee leading on four such bills so far in Session 6.

The meeting closed at 5.56 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
11 June 2025

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

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 11 June 2025—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 45th Report, 2025 (Session 6): Delegated powers in the Education (Scotland) Bill (as amended at Stage 2) (SP Paper 824)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 47th Report, 2025 (Session 6): Second Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum: delegated powers exercisable within devolved competence in the Product Regulation and Metrology Bill (SP Paper 826)

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 11 June 2025 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

General Pharmaceutical Council - Strategic Plan 2025-30 (SG/2025/127) laid under Paragraph 8 of schedule 1 of the Pharmacy Order 2010

Redress For Survivors (Historical Child Abuse In Care) (Scotland) Act 2021: statutory guidance – Nominated Beneficiaries – Updated April 2025 (SG/2025/99) laid under Section 106(5) of the Redress for Survivors (Historical Child Abuse in Care) Act 2021

Redress For Survivors (Historical Child Abuse In Care) (Scotland) Act 2021: statutory guidance – Next of Kin – Updated April 2025 (SG/2025/118) laid under Section 106(5) of the Redress for Survivors (Historical Child Abuse in Care) Act 2021

Redress For Survivors (Historical Child Abuse In Care) (Scotland) Act 2021: statutory guidance – Eligibility – Updated April 2025 (SG/2025/119) laid under Section 106(5) of the Redress for Survivors (Historical Child Abuse in Care) Act 2021

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