



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 17, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 18 June 2025

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

The meeting opened at 2.00pm.

1. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands, and then on Health and Social Care, were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.

2. Demanding a Better Deal for Taxpayers in Scotland: Craig Hoy moved S6M-17980—That the Parliament notes that the Scottish Government's failure to grow Scotland's economy has led to an economic performance gap worth £1.1 billion in 2025-26 alone; believes that there should be a crackdown on wasteful expenditure from the Scottish Government through the tightening of spending rules in the Scottish Public Finance Manual, reducing the number of highly paid senior executives within the public sector, and reversing the recent ministerial pay rise, and calls on the Scottish Government to use the proceeds of a crackdown on waste to cut income tax by up to £444 for every person in Scotland by abolishing the 20% and 21% rates of income tax, so that everyone earning up to £43,662 pays 19p for every £1 earned.

The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government (Shona Robison) moved amendment S6M-17980.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-17980 in the name of Craig Hoy (Demanding a Better Deal for Taxpayers in Scotland), leave out from “notes” to end and insert “believes that public service reform must be an ongoing process in order to deliver the best use of public funding, and recognises that the Scottish

Conservative and Unionist Party's arbitrary scheme would lead to a cut in available public funding for vital services like the NHS."

Michael Marra moved amendment S6M-17980.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-17980 in the name of Craig Hoy (Demanding a Better Deal for Taxpayers in Scotland), leave out from "believes" to end and insert "understands that the Scottish National Party administration has wasted in excess of £6.7 billion of taxpayers' money since 2007; believes that the Scottish Government's reckless spending and failure to grow Scotland's economy has led to an overreliance on tax increases to plug annual budget gaps; welcomes the UK Government's decision to decisively end austerity, deliver a record budget settlement for Scotland, and pledge an extra £9.1 billion over the next three years, and believes that the Scottish Labour Party's plan to establish a Scottish treasury with strategic oversight for spending in all Scottish Government departments is essential in order to put an end to waste and ensure that people in Scotland get value for money."

After debate, amendment S6M-17980.2 was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 72 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 42, Abstentions 1). As a result, amendment S6M-17980.1 was pre-empted.

The motion, as amended, was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 83 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 31, Abstentions 1).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament believes that public service reform must be an ongoing process in order to deliver the best use of public funding, and recognises that the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party's arbitrary scheme would lead to a cut in available public funding for vital services like the NHS.

3. Recognising the Economic Contribution of Scotland's Defence Sector:

Murdo Fraser moved S6M-17981—That the Parliament recognises the significance of the defence industry to Scotland's economy, in providing secure, well-paid and highly skilled jobs and in driving innovation in the science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) sector; notes that proposed increased spending on defence provides a substantial opportunity for growth; regrets that Scottish Government policy has meant that a Scottish Enterprise grant to support the Rolls-Royce specialist naval welding skills centre in Glasgow for submarine construction has been refused, and calls on the Scottish Government to drop the policy, which prevents public funds being invested in projects such as this.

The Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic (Kate Forbes) moved amendment S6M-17981.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-17981 in the name of Murdo Fraser (Recognising the Economic Contribution of Scotland's Defence Sector), leave out from "; notes" to end and insert ", and in protecting national security,

especially at a time of increased global instability, and notes that defence is a matter reserved to the UK Government under the Scotland Act 1998 and that the Scottish Government's long-standing position is that public money should focus on diversification."

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 62 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 53 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0).

Daniel Johnson moved amendment S6M-17981.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-17981 in the name of Murdo Fraser (Recognising the Economic Contribution of Scotland's Defence Sector), insert at end "; welcomes the confirmation from the UK Government that it will provide the funding for the welding skills centre so that the project does not collapse; notes the contradiction in the Scottish Government's policy, as the publicly owned Ferguson Marine shipyard is providing steel fabrication work for Type 26 frigates, and believes that this haphazard and misjudged policy is holding back the creation of jobs and economic growth in Scotland."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 46, Against 69 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

Lorna Slater moved amendment S6M-17981.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-17981 in the name of Murdo Fraser (Recognising the Economic Contribution of Scotland's Defence Sector), leave out from "recognises" to end and insert "notes with concern that, despite the Scottish Government's policy that public funds to the defence industry should focus on diversification, at least £8 million of Scottish Enterprise grants have been awarded to companies involved in arms dealing and manufacturing since 2019; further notes that a number of these businesses have directly supplied weapons and military equipment to Israel during its assault on Gaza; understands that, despite this, still no company has failed Scottish Enterprise human rights due diligence checks, and calls, therefore, on the Scottish Government to urgently report on its promised review of Scottish Enterprise's human rights checks before the summer recess and to provide Scottish Enterprise with a clear direction on the use of public funds to ensure that Scotland meets its international obligations."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 7 (including 1 proxy), Against 108 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0).

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

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament recognises the significance of the defence industry to Scotland's economy, in providing secure, well-paid and highly skilled jobs and in driving innovation in the science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) sector; and in

protecting national security, especially at a time of increased global instability, and notes that defence is a matter reserved to the UK Government under the Scotland Act 1998 and that the Scottish Government's long-standing position is that public money should focus on diversification.

4. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-18003—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 24 June 2025

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Ministerial Statement: Budget - Provisional Outturn 2024-2025

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 Ministerial Statement: The Scottish Government's Medium-Term Financial Strategy and Fiscal Sustainability Delivery Plan

followed by Stage 3 Debate: Education (Scotland) Bill

followed by Legislative Consent Motion: Employment Rights Bill - UK Legislation

followed by Legislative Consent Motion: Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Bill - UK Legislation

followed by Legislative Consent Motion: Animal Welfare (Import of Dogs, Cats and Ferrets) Bill - UK Legislation

followed by Legislative Consent Motion: Absent Voting (Elections in Scotland and Wales) Bill - UK Legislation

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Approval of SSIs (if required)

5.50 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

2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.30 pm Portfolio Questions: Education and Skills

followed by Ministerial Statement: Ensuring the Right Support for Young People's Neurodivergence, Mental Health and Wellbeing

followed by Legislative Consent Motion: Product Regulation and Metrology Bill - UK Legislation

followed by Legislative Consent Motion: Public Authorities (Fraud, Error and Recovery) Bill - UK Legislation

followed by Legislative Consent Motion: Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill - UK Legislation

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

4.55 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Tuesday 2 September 2025

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Scottish Government Business

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 3 September 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 Government Business

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 4 September 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 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 23 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-18004—That the Parliament agrees that the Deposit and Return Scheme for Scotland (Designation of Scheme Administrator) Order 2025 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

6. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-18005—That the Parliament agrees that the Deposit and Return Scheme for Scotland Amendment Regulations 2025 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 112 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 2, Abstentions 0).

7. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-18006—That the Parliament agrees that the Environmental Regulation (Enforcement Measures) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2025 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

8. Designation of Lead Committee: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-18007—That the Parliament agrees that the Finance and Public Administration Committee be

designated as the lead committee in consideration of the Building Safety Levy (Scotland) Bill at stage 1.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

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

10. Recognising RAAC in Council and Former Council Housing: The Parliament debated S6M-17216 in the name of Liam Kerr— hat the Parliament acknowledges the reported presence of reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) in council and former council housing in Aberdeen’s Balnagask, Dundee, Monifieth and throughout Scotland; understands that, in Torry, around 150 of these properties are privately owned; expresses concern that the buy-back offers proposed by councils may value these properties at less than they were bought for; notes reports that the Scottish Government does not believe that it has a liability to compensate or financially assist affected homeowners; regrets what it sees as the attempt by the Scottish Government to divert responsibility, by reportedly trying to pin responsibility on the UK Government for this devolved matter; further regrets reports of the reluctance of the Minister for Housing to meet the Torry RAAC campaign group and that he has not met with other campaign groups, including those in Dundee, and notes calls on MSPs to utilise all available powers to explore solutions for affected homeowners, including initiating an urgent committee inquiry.

The meeting closed at 6.14 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
18 June 2025

Appendix

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

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 18 June 2025—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 48th Report, 2025 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation Considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 17 June 2025 (SP Paper 830)

Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee, 2nd Report, 2025 (Session 6): Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee Report on the Legislative Consent Memorandum (LCM) on the Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Bill (SP Paper 831)

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 18 June 2025 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

HM Fire Service Inspectorate: Organisational Culture in the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service - Volume 1 (SG/2025/60) laid under Section 43C(5) of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005

Scottish Public Services Ombudsman: Compendium of Case Reports for June 2025 (SPSO/2025/06) laid under Sections 15(1) and 15(1A) of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002

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