



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 18, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 19 June 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. Action Mesothelioma Day 2025:** The Parliament debated S6M-17647 in the name of Marie McNair—That the Parliament recognises Action Mesothelioma Day 2025, which is on 4 July 2025; understands that mesothelioma is a rare cancer that is usually caused by exposure to asbestos, with tiny fibres getting into the lungs and damaging them over time; notes that the cancer most commonly occurs in the lining of the lung, but can also occur in the lining of the abdomen and the lining of the heart, with symptoms including shortness of breath, chest pain, coughing and tiredness; understands that there are around 2,700 new mesothelioma cases in the UK every year, including around 200 in Scotland; recognises that Action Mesothelioma Day is a national event to raise awareness of asbestos and mesothelioma, raise vital funds to support the research into tackling mesothelioma, and to remember and support those who have been affected by the disease; notes with concern what it sees as the time bar injustice for mesothelioma victims and welcomes the Scottish Law Commission report, Report on Damages for Personal Injury, published in December 2024, which recommends that “an asymptomatic condition such as pleural plaques will no longer result in a time bar preventing recovery of damages for a later-developing symptomatic condition such as mesothelioma”; applauds the long-standing and ongoing work of the Clydebank

Asbestos Group, which has provided information and support to people with asbestos-related conditions for over 30 years; notes the calls for continued research into mesothelioma, and hopes for a successful Action Mesothelioma Day 2025.

**4. Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body Questions:** Questions were answered by members of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body.

**5. Portfolio Questions:** Questions on Social Justice were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and a Minister.

**6. Ministerial Statement:** The Minister for Public Finance (Ivan McKee) made a statement and answered questions on A Public Services Reform Strategy for Scotland.

**7. Progressing National Advisory Council on Women and Girls Recommendations on Equality:** The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice (Shirley-Anne Somerville) moved S6M-18016—That the Parliament notes the publication of the first Annual Statement on Gender Policy Coherence.

Tess White moved amendment S6M-18016.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-18016 in the name of Shirley-Anne Somerville (Progressing National Advisory Council on Women and Girls Recommendations on Equality), insert at end "; highlights that inequalities still exist for women and girls in Scotland in areas including health, poverty, education, earnings and employment; expresses concern that the Scottish Government continues to conflate the terms 'sex' and 'gender' following the findings of the Sullivan Review and the UK Supreme Court's judgment in For Women Scotland v The Scottish Ministers; believes that progress towards equality for women and girls has been hampered by the Scottish Government contesting the lawful definition of 'woman'; regrets that the Scottish Government has scrapped plans for a Misogyny Bill, and urges the Scottish Government to urgently ensure that all public bodies are following their legal obligations in light of the Supreme Court's ruling on 16 April 2025."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 24, Against 60 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 16).

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**8. Ministerial Statement:** The Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic (Kate Forbes) made a statement and answered questions on Alexander Dennis Limited.

**9. Revision to Business:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-18035—That the Parliament agrees to the following revisions to the programme of business for Thursday 26 June 2025—

delete

*followed by Members' Business*

and after

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

insert

*followed by Members' Business*

The motion was agreed to.

**10. Committee Membership:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-18024—That the Parliament agrees that —

Alasdair Allan be appointed to replace Elena Whitham as a member of the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee;

Elena Whitham be appointed to replace Gordon MacDonald as a member of the Social Justice and Social Security Committee;

Paul McLennan be appointed to replace Evelyn Tweed as a member of the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee; and

Evelyn Tweed be appointed to replace Emma Roddick as a member of the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**11. Decision Time:** The Parliament took decisions on items 7 and 10 as noted above.

The meeting closed at 5.26 pm.

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

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

**Committee Reports**

The following reports were published on 19 June 2025—

Finance and Public Administration Committee, 8th Report, 2025 (Session 6):  
Report on the Scottish Budget process in practice (SP Paper 829)

Social Justice and Social Security Committee, 5th Report, 2025 (Session 6):  
Report on the Legislative Consent Memorandum for the Public authorities  
(fraud, error and recovery) Bill (SP Paper 833)

**Subordinate Legislation**

**Affirmative Instruments**

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 19 June 2025 and are subject to the affirmative procedure—

Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 (Scottish Carbon Budgets) Amendment  
Regulations 2025 [draft]  
laid under section 96(4) of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

Climate Change (Local Development Plan) (Repeals) (Scotland) Order 2025 [draft]  
laid under section 96(4) of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

**Other Documents**

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 19 June 2025 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**Food Standards Scotland: Our Food 2024, An annual review of food standards across the UK (SG/2025/101)** laid under Section 15(6) of the Food (Scotland) Act 2015

**Scottish National Adaptation Plan - Annual Progress Report 2024 – 2025 (SG/2025/108)** laid under section 54 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

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