



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 20, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 25 June 2025

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

**1. Revision to Business:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-18135— That the Parliament agrees to the following revisions to the programme of business for Wednesday 25 June 2025—

delete

7.40 pm Decision Time

*followed by Members' Business*

and insert

9.00 pm Decision Time

The motion was agreed to.

**2. Suspension of Standing Orders:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-18133— That the Parliament agrees that, for the purposes of consideration of the legislative consent memorandum on the Animal Welfare (Import of Dogs, Cats and Ferrets) Bill, Rule 9B.3.5 of Standing Orders is suspended.

The motion was agreed to (by division: For 82 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 29, Abstentions 0).

**3. Portfolio Questions:** Questions on Constitution, External Affairs and Culture, and Parliamentary Business, and then on Justice and Home Affairs, were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and a Minister.

**4. First Ministers Statement:** The First Minister (John Swinney) made a statement and answered questions on Historical Policies Affecting Gypsy/Traveller Communities.

**5. Ministerial Statement:** The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government (Shona Robison) made a statement and answered questions on the Scottish Government's Medium-Term Financial Strategy and Fiscal Sustainability Delivery Plan.

**6. Education (Scotland) Bill – Stage 3:** The Bill was considered at Stage 3.

The following amendments were agreed to (without division): 211, 319, 320, 214, 215A, 215, 219, 222, 231, 37, 236, 240A, 46, 51, 246, 247, 321, 248, 249, 75, 76, 255, 77, 78, 79, 80, 267, 268, 270, 271, 82, 272, 273, 83, 275, 84, 85, 280, 281, 283, 285, 286, 287, 291, 292, 293, 299, 91, 96 and 97.

The following amendments were agreed to (by division)—

- 212 (For 88 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 27, Abstentions 0)
- 223 (For 93 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 22, Abstentions 0)
- 232 (For 88 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 26, Abstentions 0)
- 234 (For 89 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 25, Abstentions 0)
- 41 (For 86 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 29 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)
- 42 (For 87 (including 1 proxy votes), Against 29 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)
- 239 (For 90 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 26, Abstentions 0)
- 240 (For 90 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 22, Abstentions 0)
- 242 (For 87 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 24, Abstentions 0)
- 243 (For 86 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 27, Abstentions 0)
- 244 (For 90 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 23, Abstentions 0)
- 245 (For 87 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 24, Abstentions 0)
- 265 (For 87 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 24, Abstentions 0)
- 274 (For 85 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 25, Abstentions 0)
- 278 (For 105 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 8 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)
- 279 (For 88 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 26, Abstentions 0)
- 282 (For 89 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 23, Abstentions 0)
- 284 (For 92 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 21, Abstentions 0)
- 288 (For 65 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 48, Abstentions 0)
- 295 (For 92 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 22, Abstentions 0)
- 297 (For 92 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 22, Abstentions 0)
- 301 (For 87 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 26, Abstentions 0)
- 303 (For 91 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 23, Abstentions 0)
- 305 (For 64 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 48, Abstentions 0)
- 306 (For 64 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 48, Abstentions 0)

The following amendments were disagreed to (by division)—

29 (For 25, Against 88 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0)  
35 (For 25, Against 69 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 21)  
209 (For 22, Against 93 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0)  
213 (For 54 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 61 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)  
216 (For 55 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 61 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)  
217 (For 48, Against 68 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0)  
229 (For 22, Against 93 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0)  
233 (For 50 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 61 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)  
38 (For 53 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 61 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)  
39 (For 47, Against 68 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0)  
235 (For 48, Against 68 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0)  
241 (For 47, Against 69 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0)  
45 (For 46, Against 67 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0)  
47 (For 25, Against 87 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0)  
48 (For 26, Against 88 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0)  
52 (For 47, Against 66 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0)  
53 (For 25, Against 66 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 22)  
81 (For 25, Against 88 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0)  
258 (For 25, Against 89 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0)  
259 (For 47, Against 67 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0)  
266 (For 21, Against 94 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0)  
269 (For 51 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 57 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)  
290 (For 23, Against 90 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0)  
294 (For 22, Against 91 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0)  
296 (For 48, Against 66 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0)  
298 (For 48, Against 66 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0)  
300 (For 22, Against 91 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0)  
309 (For 22, Against 91 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0)  
315 (For 49, Against 65 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0)  
316 (For 48, Against 66 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0)  
317 (For 24, Against 87 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

The following amendments were not moved: 30, 31, 32, 205, 206, 33, 34, 207, 208, 210, 218, 220, 221, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 36, 230, 237, 238, 43, 44, 49, 50, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 250, 74, 251, 253, 252, 254, 256, 257, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 276, 277, 86, 87, 88, 289, 302, 304, 307, 308, 310, 311, 312, 313, 89, 90, 92, 93, 314, 94 and 95.

The Deputy Presiding Officer exercised their power under Rule 9.8.4A(c) to allow the debate to continue beyond the agreed time limit.

The Deputy Presiding Officer exercised their power under Rule 9.8.4A(c) to allow the debate to continue beyond the agreed time limit.

The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn) moved a motion without notice under Rule 9.8.5A to move the seventh time limit by up to 30 minutes. The motion was agreed to.

**7. Education (Scotland) Bill:** The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills (Jenny Gilruth) moved S6M-18059—That the Parliament agrees that the Education (Scotland) Bill be passed.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 69, Against 47, Abstentions 0).

**8. Public Authorities (Fraud, Error and Recovery) Bill - UK Legislation:** The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice (Shirley-Anne Somerville) moved S6M-18079—That the Parliament agrees that clauses 72, 73, 74, 75, 77 to 81, 83 to 87 and 98, and schedules 3-4 of the Public Authorities (Fraud, Error And Recovery) Bill 2025, introduced in the House of Commons on 22 January 2025, so far as these matters fall within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament and alter the executive competence of the Scottish Ministers, should be considered by the UK Parliament.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 109, Against 7, Abstentions 0).

**9. Animal Welfare (Import of Dogs, Cats and Ferrets) Bill - UK Legislation:** The Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity (Jim Fairlie) moved S6M-18077—That the Parliament agrees that the relevant provisions of the Animal Welfare (Import of Dogs, Cats and Ferrets) Bill, introduced in the House of Commons on 16 October 2024, so far as these matters fall within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament and alter the executive competence of the Scottish Ministers, should be considered by the UK Parliament.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**10. Absent Voting (Elections in Scotland and Wales) Bill - UK Legislation:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn) moved S6M-18078—That the Parliament agrees that the relevant provisions of the Absent Voting (Elections in Scotland and Wales) Bill, introduced in the House of Commons on 16 October 2024, relating to local government elections (clause 1), elections to the Scottish Parliament (clause 2) and commencement and transitional provision (clause 4), so far as these matters fall within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament and alter the executive competence of the Scottish Ministers, should be considered by the UK Parliament.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**11. Business Programme:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-18100—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of 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: Climate Action and Energy, and Transport

*followed by* Scottish Government Business

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 9 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 10 September 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 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 11 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: Social Justice and Housing

*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 1 September 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.

**12. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-18101—That the Parliament agrees that the Home Detention Curfew (Amendment of Specified Time Periods) (Scotland) Order 2025 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 90, Against 25, Abstentions 0).

**13. Designation of Lead Committee:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-18102—That the Parliament agrees that the Education, Children and Young People Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the Children (Care, Care Experience and Services Planning) (Scotland) Bill at stage 1.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**14. Decision Time:** The Parliament took decisions on items 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 13 as noted above.

The meeting closed at 9.52 pm.

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

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

**Committee Reports**

The following reports were published on 25 June 2025—

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee, 2nd Report, 2025 (Session 6): Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Absent Voting (Elections in Scotland and Wales) Bill (SP Paper 837)

Economy and Fair Work Committee, 8th Report, 2025 (Session 6): Report on two supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandums for the Product Regulation and Metrology Bill (SP Paper 838)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 52nd Report, 2025 (Session 6): Delegated Powers in the Greyhound Racing (Offences) (Scotland) Bill (SP Paper 839)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 53rd Report, 2025 (Session 6): Delegated powers in the Restraint and Seclusion in Schools (Scotland) Bill at Stage 1 (SP Paper 840)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 54th Report, 2025 (Session 6): Delegated powers in the Wellbeing and Sustainable Development (Scotland) Bill at Stage 1 (SP Paper 841)

**Subordinate Legislation**

**Affirmative Instruments**

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 24 June 2025 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Social Security (Cross-border Provision, Case Transfer and Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 [draft]  
laid under section 96(2) of the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018

**Negative Instruments**

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 25 June 2025 and is subject to the negative procedure—

Teachers' Pensions (Remediable Service) (Scotland) Amendment (No. 2) Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/197)  
laid under section 24(2) of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013

**Other Documents**

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 25 June 2025 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**Climate Change Committee: Progress in reducing emissions in Scotland 2025 Report to Parliament (SG/2025/138)** laid under section 36(1) of the Climate Change Act 2008

**Inspection of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service North Service Delivery Area (SG/2025/89)** laid under section 43C(5) of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005

**Scottish Civil Justice Council Annual Report 2024/25 and Programme 2025/26 (SCJC 2025/01)** laid under section 5(4) of the Scottish Civil Justice Council and Criminal Legal Assistance Act 2013

**Scotland's Economic and Fiscal Forecasts Update – June 2025 - (SFC/2025/5)** laid under section 5(2) of the Scottish Fiscal Commission Act 2016

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