



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 6, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 22 May 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. Aberdeen to Welcome the Tall Ships Races:** The Parliament debated S6M-17330 in the name of Kevin Stewart—That the Parliament welcomes the return of the Tall Ships Races to Aberdeen from 19 to 22 July 2025; recognises that the event, which will see over 50 tall ships and over 1,500 international crew arriving in the harbour in the Aberdeen Central constituency, sees the ships coming back to the Granite City for the first time in 28 years, and will be the largest fleet of the 2025 races; understands that there will be a plethora of entertainment for visitors and residents alike to partake in while the ships are berthed in Aberdeen, including public access to the ships themselves, parades, cultural events, open-air concerts, headlined by Deacon Blue, Kaiser Chiefs, Ministry of Sound Classical, Tide Lines and Callum Bowie, and much more; believes that this has the potential to be the biggest event in Aberdeen in a generation, with the opportunity to create a lasting legacy in the city, and hopes that it is a tremendous success that brings a lot of joy and excitement to all those who join in with the festivities.

**4. Portfolio Questions:** Questions on Net Zero and Energy, and Transport were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and a Minister.

**5. Ministerial Statement:** The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice (Shirley-Anne Somerville) made a statement and answered questions on Response to the Housing Emergency.

**6. Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee Debate: Committee Effectiveness Inquiry:** The Parliament debated the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee inquiry into Committee Effectiveness.

**7. Committee Meeting Times:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-17661—That the Parliament agrees that, under Rule 12.3.3B of Standing Orders, the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee can meet, if necessary, at the same time as a meeting of the Parliament on—

(a) Tuesday 27 May 2025 between approximately 2.20 pm and close of business, and

(b) Thursday 29 May 2025 between 1.00 pm and Decision Time, with the exception of during Portfolio Questions and the Ministerial Statement: Responding to RAAC in the Public Sector Across Scotland.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**8. Decision Time:** The Parliament took a decision on item 7 as noted above.

The meeting closed at 5.00 pm.

**David McGill**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
22 May 2025

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

**Committee Reports**

The following reports were published on 22 May 2025—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 34th Report, 2025 (Session 6): Legislative Consent Memorandum: delegated powers exercisable within devolved competence in the Planning and Infrastructure Bill (SP Paper 793)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 35th Report, 2025 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation Considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 20 May 2025 (SP Paper 794)

**Subordinate Legislation**

**Affirmative Instruments**

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 22 May 2025 and are subject to the affirmative procedure—

Scottish Parliament (Disqualification) Order 2025 [draft]  
laid under section 115(1) and paragraphs 1 and 2 of schedule 7 of the Scotland Act 1998

Scottish Parliament (Constituencies and Regions) Order 2025 [draft]  
laid under paragraph 3(9) of schedule 1 of the Scotland Act 1998

**Laid Only Instruments**

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 22 May 2025 and is not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Children (Scotland) Act 2020 (Commencement No. 3 and Saving Provision) Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/157 (C.14))  
laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

**Other Documents**

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 22 May 2025 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**Annual Report of the Investigatory Powers Commissioner 2023 (SG/2025/9)** laid under section 234(8) of the Investigatory Powers Act 2016

**Annual Report of the Investigatory Powers Commissioner - Statement by the Prime Minister on 22 May 2025 (SG/2025/10)** laid under section 234(8) of the Investigatory Powers Act 2016

**Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries (SG/2025/104)** laid under paragraph 3(9) of schedule 1 of the Scotland Act 1998

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