



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 7, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 27 May 2025

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Time for Reflection: Dr Yahya Barry, Imam, Shah Jalal Mosque, led Time for Reflection.

2. Topical Questions: Questions were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and a Minister.

3. Growing Community-owned Energy in Scotland: The Acting Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy (Gillian Martin) moved S6M-17648—That the Parliament believes that Scotland must increase community-owned energy production, and supports communities being aided to achieve this; welcomes that, since its inception, the Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES) has advised over 1,300 organisations and provided over £67 million in funding to support over 990 projects; notes that the new Community Energy Generation Growth Fund will provide up to £8 million to boost community energy in Scotland, and believes that the development of renewables at all scales in Scotland should benefit consumers, communities and the economy.

Douglas Lumsden moved amendment S6M-17648.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-17648 in the name of Gillian Martin (Growing Community-owned Energy in Scotland), insert at end “; recognises that community consent needs to be at the heart of energy production; notes with concern that pylons and other electricity infrastructure are increasingly being

built without the support of residents, and calls on the Scottish Government to give these communities more say over local energy production.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 27, Against 81 (including 3 proxy votes), Abstentions 4).

Sarah Boyack moved amendment S6M-17648.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-17648 in the name of Gillian Martin (Growing Community-owned Energy in Scotland), insert at end “; welcomes the £4 million in funding from Great British Energy to fund half of the Community Energy Generation Growth Fund; believes that, as well as community groups, councils and public sector organisations are well placed to host, or collaborate on, community renewables projects, community heat projects, municipal ownership and co-operative models; further believes that land reform should mean the chance for communities to be able to have priority access to land when it becomes available; notes that there are a range of different technologies that could be utilised for community-owned energy projects, including wind, solar and hydro schemes among others, in both urban and rural Scotland; acknowledges that the Scottish Government could help to grow the sector by opening up the government electricity supply contract to community generators, which are currently denied access to the market, whether directly through conditions of tender or indirectly through procurement; calls on public bodies to create space for community ownership where possible by making public land and buildings available to community energy groups, and calls on the Scottish Government to work productively with the UK Government to create further opportunities for communities to own a meaningful stake in energy infrastructure through partnering with Great British Energy.”

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 84 (including 3 proxy votes), Against 29, Abstentions 0).

Patrick Harvie moved amendment S6M-17648.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-17648 in the name of Gillian Martin (Growing Community-owned Energy in Scotland), insert at end “; acknowledges that any significant increase in public, community and shared ownership of energy infrastructure will require new and increased forms of support from the Scottish Government, including making public land available for energy projects and diversifying the ownership of existing energy assets; considers that community ownership of heat networks offers further opportunities to maximise the social, economic and environmental benefit of heat decarbonisation, and calls on the Scottish Government to build on its relationship with Denmark to draw on its experience of both shared ownership of renewables and developing heat networks built and operated on a not-for-profit basis.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 29 (including 1 proxy votes), Against 85 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

The motion, as amended, was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 86 (including 3 proxy votes), Against 28, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament believes that Scotland must increase community-owned energy production, and supports communities being aided to achieve this; welcomes that, since its inception, the Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES) has advised over 1,300 organisations and provided over £67 million in funding to support over 990 projects; notes that the new Community Energy Generation Growth Fund will provide up to £8 million to boost community energy in Scotland; believes that the development of renewables at all scales in Scotland should benefit consumers, communities and the economy; welcomes the £4 million in funding from Great British Energy to fund half of the Community Energy Generation Growth Fund; believes that, as well as community groups, councils and public sector organisations are well placed to host, or collaborate on, community renewables projects, community heat projects, municipal ownership and co-operative models; further believes that land reform should mean the chance for communities to be able to have priority access to land when it becomes available; notes that there are a range of different technologies that could be utilised for community-owned energy projects, including wind, solar and hydro schemes among others, in both urban and rural Scotland; acknowledges that the Scottish Government could help to grow the sector by opening up the government electricity supply contract to community generators, which are currently denied access to the market, whether directly through conditions of tender or indirectly through procurement; calls on public bodies to create space for community ownership where possible by making public land and buildings available to community energy groups, and calls on the Scottish Government to work productively with the UK Government to create further opportunities for communities to own a meaningful stake in energy infrastructure through partnering with Great British Energy.

4. Urgent Question: An urgent question, to ask the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body what its response is to the open letter to the Presiding Officer, signed by cross-party MSPs and staff, regarding the interim position on the use of facilities in the Parliament building, was answered by Christine Grahame.

5. Decision Time: The Parliament took a decision on item 3 as noted above.

6. Common Ground Forum on Deer: The Parliament debated S6M-16194 in the name of Elena Whitham—That the Parliament recognises the recent Nature of Scotland Award for Innovation to the Common Ground Forum for its work addressing challenging conflicts and relationships in the deer management sector; welcomes that the forum has brought together stakeholders, including land managers and conservationists, to build consensus and common understanding; notes what it sees as the importance of effective deer management, both in achieving nature restoration and the viability of rural businesses in many parts of the country, including in Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley, and notes the view that all sides of the deer sector should continue to embed the Common Ground Forum's approach.

The meeting closed at 6.08 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
27 May 2025

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

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 27 May 2025—

Social Justice and Social Security Committee, 3rd Report, 2025 (Session 6):
Annual Report of the Social Justice and Social Security Committee 2024-2025
(SP Paper 791)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 36th Report, 2025 (Session
6): Annual report of the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee 2024-
25 (SP Paper 798)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 37th Report, 2025 (Session
6): Subordinate Legislation Considered by the Delegated Powers and Law
Reform Committee on 27 May 2025 (SP Paper 799)

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 27 May 2025 and are
not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**Analytics and Intelligence for people who access an NHS Sexual Assault
Response Coordination Service (SARCS) following a recent rape, sexual
assault or child sexual abuse. Third report on the operation of the Forensic
Medical Services (Victims of Sexual Offences) (Scotland) Act 2021**
(SG/2025/85) laid under Section 15 of the Forensic Medical Services (Victims of
Sexual Offences) (Scotland) Act 2021

NHS in Scotland: Spotlight on Governance (AGS/2025/05) laid under the Public
Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Published by the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body

All documents are available on
the Scottish Parliament website at:

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