



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 44, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 5 November 2025

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Revision to Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-19555—That the Parliament agrees to the following revisions to the programme of business for Thursday 6 November 2025—

delete

2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.30 pm Portfolio Questions: Social Justice and Housing

and insert

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Social Justice and Housing

followed by Ministerial Statement: The Draft Climate Change Plan 2025

The motion was agreed to.

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

3. Scotland's Maternity Services: Jackie Baillie moved S6M-19512—That the Parliament is alarmed by the serious patient safety issues raised in recent inspection

reports of maternity services, and calls on the Scottish Government to launch a national investigation into the design and delivery of maternity and neonatal services across Scotland.

The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care (Neil Gray) moved amendment S6M-19512.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-19512 in the name of Jackie Baillie (Scotland's Maternity Services), leave out from ", and calls" to end and insert "; agrees that a national investigation into the design and delivery of maternity services should take place if Scotland's new Maternity and Neonatal Taskforce recommends it, and that it should give full consideration to staff and patient welfare; notes that the taskforce will review the findings of Healthcare Improvement Scotland's inspections into all maternity units in Scotland; recognises that no neonatal unit in Scotland is closing, and notes that the new model of neonatal intensive care in Scotland was recommended by the Best Start 2017 report, following robust clinical evidence on the safest and best possible model for the sickest babies."

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 67 (including 4 proxy votes), Against 53 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0).

Sandesh Gulhane moved amendment S6M-19512.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-19512 in the name of Jackie Baillie (Scotland's Maternity Services), insert at end "; recognises that a comprehensive NHS workforce plan is required for doctors, nurses and midwives to address staffing shortages, and that women in rural areas in particular are facing difficult journeys to access maternity services; urges the Scottish Government to swiftly make improvements to maternity services across Scotland and ensure that the recommendations and requirements issued by Healthcare Improvement Scotland following maternity service inspections are fully implemented, and calls on the Scottish Government to pause its plans to downgrade neonatal intensive care units until the national investigation has concluded and the Scottish Maternity and Neonatal Taskforce has reported on it."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 54 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 67 (including 4 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

Willie Rennie moved amendment S6M-19512.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-19512 in the name of Jackie Baillie (Scotland's Maternity Services), insert at end "; notes that, following the downgrading of the consultant-led maternity unit at Caithness General Hospital in 2016, women in Caithness can face a 100 mile trip down the A9 to Raigmore Hospital in Inverness to give birth, and calls on the Scottish Government to commission an independent review of maternity services in Caithness."

After debate, the amendment was agreed to (DT).

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 73 (including 4 proxy votes), Against 27, Abstentions 20 (including 1 proxy vote)).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament is alarmed by the serious patient safety issues raised in recent inspection reports of maternity services; agrees that a national investigation into the design and delivery of maternity services should take place if Scotland's new Maternity and Neonatal Taskforce recommends it, and that it should give full consideration to staff and patient welfare; notes that the taskforce will review the findings of Healthcare Improvement Scotland's inspections into all maternity units in Scotland; recognises that no neonatal unit in Scotland is closing: notes that the new model of neonatal intensive care in Scotland was recommended by the Best Start 2017 report, following robust clinical evidence on the safest and best possible model for the sickest babies; notes that, following the downgrading of the consultant-led maternity unit at Caithness General Hospital in 2016, women in Caithness can face a 100 mile trip down the A9 to Raigmore Hospital in Inverness to give birth, and calls on the Scottish Government to commission an independent review of maternity services in Caithness.

4 Land Reform (Scotland) Bill: The Parliament continued its consideration of the Bill at Stage 3.

The following amendments were agreed to (without division): 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 378, 379, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390 and 391.

The following amendments were agreed to (by division)—

229 (For 88 (including 5 proxy votes), Against 28, Abstentions 0)
230 (For 89 (including 5 proxy votes), Against 27, Abstentions 0)
231 (For 90 (including 5 proxy votes), Against 28, Abstentions 0)
377 (For 90 (including 5 proxy votes), Against 28, Abstentions 0)
380 (For 90 (including 5 proxy votes), Against 28, Abstentions 0)

The following amendments were disagreed to (by division)—

106 (For 28, Against 87 (including 5 proxy votes), Abstentions 0)
107, 108, 109, 110, 111 and 112 en bloc (For 26, Against 91 (including 5 proxy votes), Abstentions 0)
113 (For 46 (including 1 proxy votes), Against 71 (including 4 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

The following amendments were not moved: 114 and 366.

5. Land Reform (Scotland) Bill: The Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands (Mairi Gougeon) moved S6M-19421—That the Parliament agrees that the Land Reform (Scotland) Bill be passed.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 85 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 28, Abstentions 9 (including 3 proxy votes)).

6. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-19534—That the Parliament agrees—
(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 11 November 2025

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions

followed by Ministerial Statement: Wildfire Summit

followed by Stage 1 Debate: UEFA European Championship (Scotland) Bill

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

4.15 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 12 November 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 Scottish Green Party Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.10 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 13 November 2025

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

followed by Members' Business

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Education and Skills

followed by Ministerial Statement: Winter Preparedness and National Planning Priorities for Health and Social Care

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Scottish Parliament (Recall and Removal of Members) Bill

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 18 November 2025

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions

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 19 November 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 Labour Party Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.10 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 20 November 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 Stage 1 Debate: Community Wealth Building (Scotland) Bill

followed by Financial Resolution: Community Wealth Building (Scotland) Bill

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 10 November 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.

7. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-19535—That the Parliament agrees that the Early Release of Prisoners (Scotland) Regulations 2025 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 66 (including 4 proxy votes), Against 51 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 5).

8. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-19536—That the Parliament agrees that the Carer's Assistance (Miscellaneous and Consequential Amendments, Revocation, Transitional and Saving Provisions) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

9. Office of the Clerk: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-19537—That the Parliament agrees that the Office of the Clerk be closed on Wednesday 24 (am), Monday 29, Tuesday 30 and Wednesday 31 December 2025.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

10. Campaign Recess: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-19538—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) for the purpose of the pre-election campaign period from 26 March to 8 April 2026 (inclusive), that the office of the clerk be closed from 26 March to 8 April 2026 (inclusive);

(b) in respect of meetings of committees and sub-committees during the pre-election campaign period, that, in rule 12.3.3, the word "normally" in the second sentence be suspended; and

(c) for the purpose of the lodging of written questions immediately prior to the pre-election campaign period, that rule 13.3.4A be suspended and replaced with—

"The last day on which written questions may be lodged in the current session is Thursday 12 March 2026."

The motion was agreed to (DT).

11. Parliamentary Recess Dates: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-19539—That the Parliament agrees, for the purposes of the pre-election campaign period from 26 March to 8 April 2026 (inclusive), the following parliamentary recess dates under Rule 2.3.1: 26 March to 8 April 2026 (inclusive).

The motion was agreed to (DT).

12. Motion Without Notice: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved a motion without notice that, under Rule 11.2.4, Decision Time be brought forward to 6.57 pm.

The motion was agreed to.

13. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 as noted above.

14. Scotland's Commitment to Global Climate Justice and Fair Climate Finance: The Parliament debated S6M-19280 in the name of Nicola Sturgeon—That the Parliament notes that Glasgow hosted the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in 2021, which it considers built momentum for the establishment of the historic Loss and Damage Fund; understands that Scotland became the first nation to contribute to this fund with an initial £2 million pledge, demonstrating, it believes, Scotland's leadership in climate justice; considers that climate change disproportionately affects the world's most vulnerable communities that have contributed the least to the problem; believes that addressing climate impacts requires transformative fiscal reform and international cooperation to tackle economic and environmental inequalities; notes the view that industrialised countries and historic emitters, including Scotland and the UK, must meet their fair share of international climate finance, which it understands is estimated globally to be between £7.6 billion and £33 billion annually; further notes what it sees as Scotland's ongoing commitment to championing climate justice and building on Glasgow's COP26 legacy and the precedent set by Scotland's Loss and Damage Fund contributions throughout the current parliamentary session, and notes the support for continued advocacy for these principles in international fora and within climate and development strategies.

The meeting closed at 7.42 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
5 November 2025

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

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 5 November 2025—

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee, 7th Report, 2025 (Session 6): Stage 1 report on the Scottish Parliament (Recall and Removal of Members) Bill (SP Paper 903)

Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee, 6th Report, 2025 (Session 6): Subordinate legislation considered by the Equalities Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee on 4 November 2025 (SP Paper 904)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 82nd Report, 2025 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 4 November 2025 (SP Paper 905)

Subordinate Legislation

Documents subject to parliamentary control

The following document was withdrawn on 5 November 2025—

Draft Code of Practice: The Non-Party Campaigner Campaign Expenditure (Scottish Parliament Elections) Code of Practice 2025 (SG/2025/2014)

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the Scottish Parliament website at:

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