



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 45, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 6 November 2025

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

The meeting opened at 11.40 am.

1. General Questions: Questions were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and Ministers.

2. First Minister's Questions: Questions were answered by the First Minister (John Swinney).

3. Protecting Scotland's Rivers: The Parliament debated S6M-19194 in the name of Audrey Nicoll—That the Parliament believes that Scotland has abundant rivers and streams, which support a diverse ecosystem and are the lifeblood of the landscape and central to the nation's brand, economy and sense of place; considers that they are now one of the country's most nature-depleted and endangered habitats; believes that this has arisen from a range of factors, including major flood events, water scarcity and increasing temperatures; expresses its concern regarding what it sees as the devastating decline in the population of freshwater pearl mussels in Scotland's rivers, including the River Dee, which flows through the Aberdeen South and North Kincardine constituency; notes the commitment of organisations, including the James Hutton Institute, Dee Catchment Partnership, Dee District Salmon Fishery Board and Cairngorm National Park Authority, to make the freshwaters and freshwater pearl mussel population more resilient to extreme climate events; believes that there is an opportunity provided by the Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill to establish a legal framework for biodiversity targets, including in the freshwater ecosystem to ensure healthy invertebrate diversity as an integral part of a fully functioning ecosystem; welcomes the Programme for Government commitment to extend the Nature Restoration Fund to enable funding of

multi-year projects to help deliver the priorities set out in the Biodiversity Strategy, and commends everyone working to restore and protect Scotland's rivers.

4. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Social Justice and Housing were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and a Minister.

5. Ministerial Statement: The Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Energy (Gillian Martin) made a statement and answered questions on The Draft Climate Change Plan 2025.

6. Strengthening Committees' Effectiveness : Martin Whitfield, on behalf of the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee, moved S6M-19436—That the Parliament notes and welcomes the conclusions and recommendations in the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee's 4th Report, 2025 (Session 6), Strengthening committees' effectiveness (SP Paper 878); further notes that the Committee wishes to gauge the views of other Members on the introduction of a procedure for the election of committee conveners by the Parliament, and agrees to consider a proposed rule change for the election of committee conveners based on the procedure set out in annexe B to the report.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

7. 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 4.59 pm.

The motion was agreed to.

8. Decision Time: The Parliament took a decision on item 6 as noted above.

9. Dying in Poverty at the End of Life in Scotland 2025: The Parliament debated S6M-18624 in the name of Paul Sweeney—That the Parliament welcomes the publication of the Marie Curie report, Dying in Poverty in Scotland 2025; understands that the report is based on research carried out by Marie Curie and Loughborough University; notes that it found that end of life poverty in Scotland remains unchanged since 2024; understands from the research that one in four working age people and one in six older people still die in end of life poverty; considers that terminal illness exacerbates existing inequality and deepens the inverse care law where people in the most need of support are least likely to receive it; notes the report's findings that symptoms of terminal illness and diagnosis can result in higher energy and housing costs; believes that a terminal diagnosis can force both a dying person and their carers to reduce their working hours or give up paid work entirely; notes the view that more must be done to target support to people at the end of life and their carers, and further notes the calls for the Scottish Government to take action to prevent people, including those in the Glasgow region, from dying in end of life poverty.

The meeting closed at 5.45 pm

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
6 November 2025

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 6 November 2025—

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee, 8th Report,
2025 (Session 6): Subordinate legislation considered on 6 November 2025
(SP Paper 907)

Subordinate Legislation

Negative Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 6 November 2025 and are subject to the negative procedure—

Scottish Register of Tartans Fees Order 2025 (SSI 2025/334)
laid under Section 14(2) of the Scottish Register of Tartans Act 2008

Official Controls (Import of High Risk Food and Feed of Non-Animal Origin)
Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/335)
laid under Article 57a(5) of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 and Article 144(5) of
Regulation (EU) 2017/625

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 6 November 2025 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Scotland's Draft Climate Change Plan: 2026-2040 (SG/2025/286) laid under
Section 35(1)(a) of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

**Scrutiny report on amendments to paragraph 30 of the schedule of draft
Regulations: the Two Child Limit Payment (Scotland) Regulations 2026
(SCoSS/2025/12)** laid under sections 22 and 97 of the Social Security
(Scotland) Act 2018

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