



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 30, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 18 September 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. Increasing Frequency and Intensity of Wildfires: The Parliament debated S6M-18710 in the name of Emma Roddick—That the Parliament notes with grave concern the reported increasing frequency and intensity of wildfires in Scotland, including in the Highlands and Islands, and the devastating impact these events have on the environment, economy and communities; recognises what it sees as the unique vulnerability of the Highlands and Islands due to its expansive rural landscape, peatlands and the changing climate; highlights what it sees as the significant risks posed to biodiversity, air quality and critical infrastructure; recognises what it sees as the immense pressure that is placed on emergency services, local resources and the resilience efforts that are required from everyone, from government to third sector volunteers; notes the reported role of climate change, land management practices and human activity in contributing to these events, and further notes the calls on the Scottish Government to review its wildfire prevention and response strategies, and for cross-party collaboration to develop a robust, long-term plan to mitigate the threat of wildfires, discourage irresponsible behaviours and build resilience in communities.

4. Motion without Notice: Emma Roddick moved a motion without notice that, under Rule 8.14.3, the debate be extended by up to 30 minutes.

The motion was agreed to.

5. Motion of Condolence: The First Minister (John Swinney) moved S6M-18531—That the Parliament expresses its profound sadness at the death of George Reid; extends its deepest sympathy and sincere condolences to his family and friends; appreciates the many years of public service that he gave as an MP, MSP, Presiding Officer, and Lord Lieutenant; recognises the substantial contribution that he made to the establishment of the Scottish Parliament and the securing of its place in the life of the nation, and acknowledges his humanitarian work over many decades and the high regard in which he was held by colleagues across the world.

The motion was agreed to.

6. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Education and Skills were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and Ministers.

7. Ministerial Statement: The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care (Neil Gray) made a statement and answered questions on Improving Care on the Isle of Skye.

8. SPCB Supported Bodies Landscape Review Committee Debate: SPCB Supported Bodies Landscape Review: Ben Macpherson, on behalf of the SPCB Supported Bodies Landscape Review Committee, moved S6M-18936—That the Parliament welcomes and notes the SPCB Supported Bodies Landscape Review Committee's 1st Report, 2025 (Session 6), SPCB Supported Bodies Landscape Review (SP Paper 828); recognises the Committee's conclusions and recommendations, including concerns that expanding the number of SPCB supported bodies risks further fragmenting the current landscape, increasing complexity for service users, and placing additional strain on the SPCB and parliamentary committee resources, and agrees with the Committee's recommendations that:

(a) the SPCB supported body landscape should not be expanded to include new advocacy-type SPCB supported bodies;

(b) any future proposals for new SPCB supported bodies must satisfy two-tier criteria, as set out in paragraph 150 of the report, comprising both justification and effectiveness tests, and that a parliamentary committee should be given the remit of assessing proposals against these criteria; and

(c) a parliamentary committee should be given the specific responsibility for the accountability and scrutiny of SPCB supported bodies for a fixed period as a pilot exercise in Session 7.

Martin Whitfield moved amendment S6M-18936.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-18936 in the name of Ben Macpherson (SPCB Supported Bodies Landscape Review Committee Debate: SPCB Supported Bodies Landscape Review), leave out from ", and agrees" to end.

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 22 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 81 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 1).

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 101 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 1, Abstentions 3).

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

The meeting closed at 5.27 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
18 September 2025

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

Subordinate Legislation

Negative Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 18 September 2025 and are subject to the negative procedure—

National Health Service Superannuation and Pension Schemes (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/259)
laid under section 22 of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013

Sports Grounds and Sporting Events (Designation) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2025 (SSI 2025/262)
laid under section 18(3) of the Criminal Law (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 1995

Laid Only Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 18 September 2025 and is not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Scottish Elections (Representation and Reform) Act 2025 (Commencement No. 1 Amendment and Commencement No. 2) Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/260 (C. 21))
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 18 September 2025 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Healthcare Improvement Scotland Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (SG/2025/204) laid under Section 22 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

National Waiting Times Centre Board (Known as NHS Golden Jubilee) Annual Report and Consolidated Accounts for Year ended 31 March 2025 (SG/2025/201) laid under Section 22 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

NHS 24 Annual Report and Accounts For the year ended 31 March 2025 (SG/2025/202) laid under Section 22 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

NHS Education for Scotland Annual Report and Accounts for Year Ended 31 March 2025 (SG/2025/203) laid under Section 22 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

NHS Western Isles Annual Report and Accounts for the Year ended 31st March 2025 (SG/2025/200) laid under Section 22 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Report To The Scottish Parliament On Orders Regulating The Management Of Shellfisheries Under The Sea Fisheries (Shellfish) Act 1967 Year Ending: 31 March 2025 (SG/2025/224) laid under Section 6 of the Sea Fisheries (Shellfish) Act 1967

Report to the Scottish Parliament in respect of changes to the National Health Service Pension Scheme (Scotland) (SG/2025/225) laid under section 22 of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013

Scottish Commission on Social Security Annual Report and Accounts 2024-2025 (SG/2025/182) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

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