



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 31, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 23 September 2025

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Time for Reflection: Paul Rand, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, led Time for Reflection.

2. Revision to Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-19021—That the Parliament agrees to the following revisions to the programme of business for—

(a) Tuesday 23 September 2025—

after

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

insert

followed by Appointment of Junior Scottish Minister

delete

10.00 pm Decision Time

and insert

9.00 pm Decision Time

(b) Wednesday 24 September 2025—

after

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Deputy First Minister Responsibilities, Economy and Gaelic; Finance and Local Government

insert

followed by Ministerial Statement: Improving Provision and Access to Residential Outdoor Education for Children and Young People in Scotland

delete

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Improving Literacy in Scotland's Schools

delete

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

and insert

8.00 pm Decision Time

(c) Thursday 25 September 2025—

after

followed by Financial Resolution: Tertiary Education and Training (Funding and Governance) (Scotland) Bill

insert

followed by Appointment of Commissioners to the Scottish Fiscal Commission

The motion was agreed to.

3. Topical Questions: Questions were answered by Cabinet Secretaries.

4. Appointment of Scottish Minister: The First Minister (John Swinney) moved S6M-19015—That the Parliament agrees that Ben Macpherson be appointed as a junior Scottish Minister.

The motion was agreed to.

5. Urgent Question: An urgent question, to ask the Scottish Government whether it will clarify its position regarding whether local authorities will be given powers to introduce a visitor levy on a flat charge basis, as an alternative to a percentage, was answered by Minister for Public Finance (Ivan McKee).

6. Stage 3 Timetable: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-19014—That the Parliament agrees that, during stage 3 of the Housing (Scotland) Bill, debate on groups of amendments shall, subject to Rule 9.8.4A, be brought to a conclusion by the time limits indicated, those time limits being calculated from when the stage begins and excluding any periods when other business is under consideration or when a meeting of the Parliament is suspended or otherwise not in progress:

Groups 1 to 3: 2 hours

Groups 4 to 6: 3 hours 30 minutes

Groups 7 to 9: 5 hours

Groups 10 to 11: 6 hours 30 minutes

Groups 12 to 14: 7 hours 50 minutes

Groups 15 to 17: 8 hours 45 minutes

Groups 18 to 20: 10 hours 35 minutes

Groups 21 to 24: 12 hours

Groups 25 to 27: 13 hours 45 minutes

The motion was agreed to.

7. Housing (Scotland) Bill: The Bill was considered at Stage 3.

The following amendments were agreed to (without division): 125, 131, 132, 133, 134, 143, 149, 152, 155 and 70.

The following amendments were agreed to (by division)—

123 (For 101 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 9 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)

124 (For 103 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 8 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)

60 (For 78 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 32 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)

61 (For 77 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 33 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)

62 (For 78 including 1 proxy vote), Against 32 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)

137 (For 103 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 0, Abstentions 7 (including 1 proxy vote))

63 (For 58 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 51 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)

64 (For 59 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 52 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)

65 (For 103 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 1, Abstentions 7 (including 1 proxy vote))

66 (For 98 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 7 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)

67, 68 and 69 en bloc (For 99 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 8 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 1)

72 (For 81 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 27, Abstentions 0)

73 (For 83 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 25, Abstentions 0)

74 (For 82 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 25, Abstentions 0)

The following amendments were disagreed to (by division)—

126, 127, 128, 129 and 130 en bloc (For 32 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 77 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 1)
 135 (For 51 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 59 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 1)
 136 (For 8 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 101 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)
 138 (For 8 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 103 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)
 139 (For 48 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 63 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)
 271, 272, 273 and 274 en bloc (For 43, Against 67 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0)
 275 (For 48 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 62 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)
 140 (For 46 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 62 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)
 141 (For 42, Against 60 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 7 (including 1 proxy vote))
 142 (For 26, Against 77 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 7 (including 1 proxy vote))
 276 (For 41, Against 68 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0)
 144, 145, 146 and 147 en bloc (For 43, Against 67 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0)
 30 (For 24 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 85 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)
 150 (For 8 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 101 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)
 1 (For 8 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 96 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)
 153 (For 8 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 98 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)
 158 (For 41, Against 67 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0)
 160 (For 41, Against 67 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0)
 161 (For 41, Against 67 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0)
 162 (For 42, Against 66 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0)
 165 (For 8 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 100 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)
 167 (For 8 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 100 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)
 169, 170 and 171 en bloc (For 8 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 100 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)
 71A (For 8 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 100 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)
 71 (For 24, Against 84, Abstentions 0)
 281 (For 24 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 85 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)
 282 (For 24 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 85 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)
 4 (For 5, Against 98 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)
 75 (For 29 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 81 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)

78A (For 24, (including 1 proxy vote) Against 85, (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)

78 (For 23 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 86 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)

176A (For 43, Against 65 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0)

176 (For 47 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 63 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)

177 (For 24 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 86 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0).

Amendment 3 was moved and, no member having objected, withdrawn.

Amendment 270 was pre-empted.

The following amendments were not moved: 277, 31, 148, 32, 33, 151, 2, 154, 156, 157, 159, 278, 279, 163, 164, 166, 168, 172, 280, 174, 175, 34, 35, 36, 76, 77, 5.

The Deputy Presiding Officer exercised their power under Rule 9.8.4A(c) to allow the debate to continue beyond the agreed time limit.

The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey) moved a motion without notice under Rule 9.8.5A to move the second time limit by up to 30 minutes. The motion was agreed to.

The Deputy Presiding Officer exercised their power under Rule 9.8.4A(c) to allow the debate to continue beyond the agreed time limit.

The Deputy Presiding Officer accepted a motion without notice, from the Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), to suspend the last sentence of Rule 9.8.5A. The motion was agreed to.

The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey) moved a motion without notice under Rule 9.8.5A to move the third time limit by up to 30 minutes. The motion was agreed to.

8. Committee Membership: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-19022—That the Parliament agrees that Jamie Hepburn be appointed to replace Ben Macpherson as a member of the Criminal Justice Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

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

The meeting closed at 9.13 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
23 September 2025

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 23 September 2025—

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee, 7th Report, 2025 (Session 6):
Stage 1 Report on the Right to Addiction Recovery (Scotland) Bill (SP Paper
863)

The following reports will be published on 24 September 2025—

Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee, 4th Report, 2025
(Session 6): Report on the Climate Change (Local Development Plan)
(Repeals) (Scotland) Order 2025 [draft] (SP Paper 864)

Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee, 5th Report, 2025
(Session 6): Proposed Good Food Nation Plan: Scrutiny by the Local
Government, Housing and Planning Committee (SP Paper 865)

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 19 September 2025
and are subject to the affirmative procedure—

Scottish Aggregates Tax (Administration) Regulations 2025 [draft]
laid under section 61(1) of the Aggregates Tax and Devolved Taxes
Administration (Scotland) Act 2024 and section 254(3)(j) of the Revenue
Scotland and Tax Powers Act 2014

Revenue Scotland and Tax Powers Act (Postponement of Tax Pending a Review or
Appeal) Amendment Regulations 2025 [draft]
laid under section 254(3)(p) of the Revenue Scotland and Tax Powers Act
2014

Revenue Scotland and Tax Powers Act (Record Keeping) Amendment Regulations
2025 [draft]
laid under section 61(1) of the Aggregates Tax and Devolved Taxes
Administration (Scotland) Act 2024

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 22 September 2025 and
is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Absent Voting at Scottish Parliament and Local Government Elections (Signature
Refresh) (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Order 2025 [draft]
laid under paragraphs 1 and 2 of schedule 7 of the Scotland Act 1998

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 23 September 2025 and are subject to the affirmative procedure—

Regulation of Care (Child Contact Services) (Scotland) Order 2025 [draft]
laid under section 104(2) of the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

Regulation of Care (Child Contact Services) (Equality) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 [draft]
laid under section 104(2) of the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

Negative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 22 September 2025 and is subject to the negative procedure—

Representation of the People (Absent Voting at Local Government Elections) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/263)
laid under section 61(3) of the Local Electoral Administration and Registration Services (Scotland) Act 2006

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 19 September 2025 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland Annual Report and Consolidated Accounts for year ended 31 March 2025 (SG/2025/209) laid under Section 22 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

NHS National Services Scotland Annual Report and Accounts for the year to 31 March 2025 (SG/2025/206) laid under Section 22 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Public Health Scotland Annual Report & Accounts for the Year to 31 March 2025 (SG/2025/207) laid under Section 22 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Scottish Ambulance Service Board Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (SG/2025/205) laid under Section 22 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

The State Hospitals Board for Scotland Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (SG/2025/208) laid under Section 22 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 23 September 2025 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Scottish Forestry Annual Report and Accounts 2024-25 (SG/2025/167) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

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