



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 21, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 26 June 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. Action to Address the Impact of Gulls in Scotland:** The Parliament debated S6M-17969 in the name of Douglas Ross—That the Parliament notes with concern the reported changes to the approach taken for granting licences to control gulls in recent years by NatureScot, which, it understands, has led to fewer licences being approved, as demonstrated by 2,041 licences being granted in 2023, but this figure falling to 505 in 2024; understands that communities and businesses in Moray, Nairn and Inverness have had significant problems with gulls in recent years, but that many communities across Scotland also experience similar problems; believes that Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) funding and Common Good Funds should not have to be spent on continually seeking licences to control gulls that display dangerous and aggressive behaviour that are a risk to all, but particularly the young and older people; is concerned that NatureScot reportedly does not fully acknowledge and respect the views of local people and businesses when considering applications to control gulls that are causing significant problems; notes the calls for more robust action from the Scottish Government and NatureScot to protect humans and businesses from what it sees as the menace of dangerous gulls, including the Scottish Ministers taking action through a section 11 order under the Natural Heritage (Scotland) Act 1991, and further notes the calls for a review by the

Scottish Government, preceded by a public consultation on the grounds for legal control, with a view to permitting control to tackle significant nuisance caused by gulls, and on the separation of the licensing of control measures and the nature species conservancy functions of NatureScot, in light of reports of an inherent potential conflict between the two and widespread concerns of many constituents that NatureScot neglects the former while preferring the latter.

**4. Motion Without Notice:** Douglas Ross 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. Revision to Business Programme:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-18148—That the Parliament agrees to the following revision to the programme of business for Thursday 26 June 2025—

after

4.55 pm Decision Time

insert

*followed by Members' Business*

The motion was agreed to.

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

**7. Ministerial Statement:** The Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy and Sport (Maree Todd) made a statement and answered questions on Ensuring the Right Support for Young People's Neurodivergence, Mental Health and Wellbeing.

**8. Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Bill - UK Legislation:** The Minister for Equalities (Kaukab Stewart) moved S6M-18076—That the Parliament agrees that the relevant provisions in the Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Bill, introduced in the House of Commons on 30 January 2025, relating to the provision and sharing of trailer registration information (amended clauses 30 to 33), the provision of biometric information at ports in Scotland (clause 36), the repeal of certain provisions of the Illegal Migration Act 2023 (clause 38), the detention and exercise of functions pending deportation (clause 41), powers to take biometric information at detention centres (clause 44), offences relating to articles for use in serious crime (clauses 49 and 50), applicants for making of orders and interim orders (clause 54), and the validation of fees charged in relation to qualifications (clause 57), so far as these matters \*fall within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament and\* alter the executive competence of the Scottish Ministers, should be considered by the UK Parliament.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 86 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 0, Abstentions 28).

**9. Product Regulation and Metrology Bill - UK Legislation:** The Minister for Business and Employment (Richard Lochhead) moved S6M-18080—That the Parliament agrees that all relevant provisions of the Product Regulation and Metrology Bill, introduced in the House of Lords on 4 September 2024, so far as these matters fall within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament, should be considered by the UK Parliament.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 80 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 0, Abstentions 34 (including 1 proxy vote)).

**10. Employment Rights Bill - UK Legislation:** The Minister for Business and Employment (Richard Lochhead) moved S6M-18075—That the Parliament agrees that the relevant provisions in the Employment Rights Bill, introduced in the House of Commons on 10 October 2024, and subsequently amended, relating to the protection of workers in relation to relevant outsourcing contracts (amended clause 30), and the establishment of the Social Care Negotiating Body for Scotland (amended clauses 36 to 46 and 48 to 52, alongside related amended clauses 153 and 155), so far as these matters alter the executive competence of the Scottish Ministers, should be considered by the UK Parliament.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 88 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 1, Abstentions 27).

**11. Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill - UK Legislation:** The Minister for Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans (Graeme Dey) moved S6M-18081—That the Parliament agrees that the relevant provisions of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill, introduced in the House of Commons on 17 December 2024, and subsequently amended, affecting child employment and community-based and secure accommodation, so far as these matters fall within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament and alter the executive competence of the Scottish Ministers, should be considered by the UK Parliament.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 87 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 0, Abstentions 28).

**12. Committee Membership:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-18141—That the Parliament agrees that —

Paul McLennan be appointed to replace Joe FitzPatrick as a member of the Education, Children and Young People Committee; and

Joe FitzPatrick be appointed to replace Stuart McMillan as a member of the Public Audit Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**13. Committee Membership:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-18142—That the Parliament agrees that—

Jamie Halcro Johnston be appointed to replace Alexander Stewart as a member of the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee;

Stephen Kerr be appointed to replace Jamie Halcro Johnston as a member of the Economy and Fair Work Committee; and

Alexander Stewart be appointed to replace Liz Smith as a member of the Social Justice and Social Security Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**14. Substitution on Committees:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-18143—That the Parliament agrees that—

Brian Whittle be appointed to replace Stephen Kerr as the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party substitute on the Criminal Justice Committee; and

Jamie Halcro Johnston be appointed to replace Brian Whittle as the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party substitute on the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**15. Motion Without Notice:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved a motion without notice that, under Rule 11.2.4, Decision Time be brought forward to 4.36 pm.

The motion was agreed to.

**16. Decision Time:** The Parliament took decisions on items 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 as noted above.

**17. The Future of Glasgow's Bus Services:** The Parliament debated S6M-17910 in the name of Patrick Harvie— That the Parliament notes Strathclyde Partnership for Transport's (SPT) proposals to develop bus franchising arrangements for the region and its recent consultation on how to create more affordable, reliable and environmentally sustainable bus services in Strathclyde; further notes the calls for SPT to proceed with the most ambitious approach to franchising, and for the Scottish Government to work constructively with SPT to make this possible; welcomes the report from Scottish Trades Union Congress (STUC), *The Next Stop: The Case for Publicly Owned Buses in Scotland*; notes that it argues that moving local buses into public ownership would have a positive impact for local communities, allow local authorities to plan routes and cap fares, and return revenues to the public sector; understands that Scotland's only publicly owned bus company, Lothian Buses, has returned a dividend of £36 million to its local authority shareholders over the last

decade; congratulates Get Glasgow Moving on its continued campaigning work on this issue, and notes the calls for the Scottish Government to further commit to support the expansion of publicly owned bus services and deliver high quality, affordable and reliable bus services, integrated ticketing and higher standards of service across the SPT region and beyond.

**18. Motion Without Notice:** Patrick Harvie moved a motion without notice that, under Rule 8.14.3, the debate be extended by up to 30 minutes.

The meeting closed at 5.50 pm.

**David McGill**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
26 June 2025

## **Appendix**

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

### **Committee Reports**

The following reports were published on 26 June 2025—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 55th Report, 2025 (Session 6): Delegated Powers in the Children (Withdrawal from Religious Education and Amendment of UNCRC Compatibility Duty) (Scotland) Bill (SP Paper 842)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 56th Report, 2025 (Session 6): Delegated Powers in the Prevention of Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Bill at Stage 1 (SP Paper 844)

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee, 9th Report, 2025 (Session 6): Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee Report on the Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Planning and Infrastructure Bill (SP Paper 845)

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