



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 37, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 7 October 2025

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Time for Reflection: Ali Hussnain, Co-Chair of the Scottish Ahlul Bayt Society, 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-19264—That the Parliament agrees to the following revision to the programme of business for—

(a) Tuesday 7 October 2025—

delete

6.00 pm Decision Time

and insert

6.10 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

(b) Wednesday 8 October 2025—

after

followed by Ministerial Statement: Secure Accommodation – Capacity and Future of

Secure

insert

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 (Scottish Carbon Budgets) Amendment Regulations 2025

delete

5.40 Decision Time

and insert

6.40 pm Decision Time

(c) Thursday 9 October 2025—

after

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Right to Addiction Recovery (Scotland) Bill

insert

followed by Motion on Legislative Consent: Public Authorities (Fraud, Error and Recovery) Bill – UK Legislation

delete

5.00 pm Decision Time

and insert

5.30 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

The motion was agreed to.

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

4. Criminal Justice Modernisation and Abusive Domestic Behaviour Reviews (Scotland) Bill: The Parliament considered the Bill at Stage 3.

The following amendments were agreed to (without division): 59, 2, 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56 and 57.

The following amendments were moved and, no member having objected, withdrawn: 58, 61.

The following amendments were not moved: 60, 62, 63, 64 and 65.

5. Criminal Justice Modernisation and Abusive Domestic Behaviour Reviews (Scotland) Bill: The Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs (Angela Constance) moved S6M-19228—That the Parliament agrees that the Criminal Justice Modernisation and Abusive Domestic Behaviour Reviews (Scotland) Bill be passed.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 115 (including 3 proxy votes), Against 0, Abstentions 0).

6. 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 4.36pm.

The motion was agreed to.

7. Decision Time: The Parliament took a decision on item 5 as noted above.

8. Addressing the Postcode Lottery of Early Learning and Childcare Provision: The Parliament debated S6M-19090 in the name of Jamie Greene—That the Parliament recognises what it sees as the importance of funded early learning and childcare in giving every child in Scotland the best start in life; believes that funded places have a vital part to play in helping parents return to work and boosting Scotland's economy; considers that the high cost of childcare is creating real barriers for parents who want to get back into work; understands with regret that many local authorities in the West Scotland region, including Inverclyde Council, North Ayrshire Council and East Dunbartonshire Council, only offer funded places from the start of the term after a child's third birthday, leaving some families missing out on up to four months of support; considers that this postcode lottery stems from the Scottish Government's *Early Learning and Childcare Statutory Guidance*, and notes the calls for the Scottish Government to guarantee that funded places are available from the day after a child's third birthday, and that children are treated fairly, no matter where they live or when they are born.

9. Securing the Long-term Sustainability of Scotland's Health Service: The Parliament debated S6M-17486 in the name of Brian Whittle—That the Parliament welcomes the publication of the Scottish Fiscal Commission (SFC) 2025 Fiscal Sustainability Report, which was published on 22 April 2025; notes with concern that the report indicates the potential for growing fiscal pressures over the next 50 years, largely due to the combination of Scotland's ageing population and increasingly poor public health driving up health spending; understands from the research that health spending, which is already the largest area of spending within the Scottish Budget, is projected to grow from 34% of devolved public spending in 2029-30 to 47% by 2074-75; notes the analysis indicating that, as a result of demographic change, the Scottish Budget will face a significant challenge within the next 20 years unless action is taken soon to address rising levels of preventable illness, including long-term chronic conditions; further notes the view that, without any intervention, the worst case scenario set out by the SFC would leave a future Scottish administration being forced to choose between cuts to the health service or sacrificing other public services to sustain health spending; considers that helping people across Scotland, including in the South Scotland region, to live longer, healthier lives can reduce growth in healthcare costs as the population ages; notes the belief that this can be achieved through the delivery of a robust, preventative health agenda, integrated across multiple policy portfolios, that promotes inclusion, physical activity and good nutrition; further notes the view that it is essential for the Scottish Government to set out how it proposes to address the issues identified in the 2025 Fiscal Sustainability Report, in particular the specific steps that it will take to address the forecast gap

resulting from poor public health, and notes the belief that politicians from across the political spectrum must have a shared commitment to improving public health if that goal is to be achieved

The meeting closed at 5.56 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
7 October 2025

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 6 October 2025—

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee, 5th Report, 2025 (Session 6): Report on the Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Order 2025 (SP Paper 884)

The following report was published on 7 October 2025—

Rural Affairs and Islands Committee, 9th Report, 2025 (Session 6): Subordinate legislation considered by the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee on 24 September 2025 (SP Paper 880)

Legislative Consent Memorandum

The following memorandum was lodged on 3 October 2025—

Shirley-Anne Somerville, Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice: Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Public Authorities (Fraud, Error and Recovery) Bill (UK Parliament legislation) (LCM-S6-55a)

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 6 October 2025 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Public Procurement (Iraq Free Trade Agreement) (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 [draft]
laid under section 122(14) of the Procurement Act 2023

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 7 October 2025 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Sexual Offences Act 2003 (Notification Requirements) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2025 [draft]
laid under section 138(2) of the Sexual Offences Act 2003

Negative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 6 October 2025 and is subject to the negative procedure—

Qualifications Scotland (Appointment of Initial Members) Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/278)
laid under section 64(3) of Education (Scotland) Act 2025

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 7 October 2025 and is subject to the negative procedure—

National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/280)
laid under section 105(2) of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 3 October 2025 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Proposed Draft Order – The Public Services Reform (Scottish Water) Order 2026 (SG/2025/238) laid under section 26(2)(a) of the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 for the purposes of consultation required by section 26(1) of that Act

Proposed Explanatory Document – The Public Services Reform (Scottish Water) Order 2026 (SG/2025/239) laid under section 26(2)(a) of the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 for the purposes of consultation required by section 26(1) of that Act

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 7 October 2025 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Improving care experience: A report prepared for the Auditor General for Scotland (AGS/2025/9) laid under the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body Annual report and accounts 2024-25 (SG/2025/181) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Published by the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body

All documents are available on
the Scottish Parliament website at:

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