



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 29, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 17 September 2025

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Constitution, External Affairs and Culture, and Parliamentary Business, and then on Justice and Home Affairs, were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Minister.

2. Ministerial Statement: The Deputy First Minister (Kate Forbes) made a statement and answered questions on Alexander Dennis Limited.

3. Victims, Witnesses, and Justice Reform (Scotland) Bill: The Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs (Angela Constance) moved S6M-18883—That the Parliament agrees that the Victims, Witnesses, and Justice Reform (Scotland) Bill be passed.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 71 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 46 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 1).

4. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-18921—That the Parliament —

(a) the following programme of—

Tuesday 23 September 2025

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Housing (Scotland) Bill

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

10.00 pm Decision Time

Wednesday 24 September 2025

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

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

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Housing (Scotland) Bill

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

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Approval of SSIs (if required)

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 25 September 2025

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

followed by Members' Business

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Climate Action and Energy, and Transport

followed by Ministerial Statement: One Scotland, Many Voices: A Shared Future

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Tertiary Education and Training (Funding and Governance) (Scotland) Bill

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

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Tuesday 30 September 2025

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Scottish Government Business

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 1 October 2025

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands; Health and Social Care

followed by Scottish Labour Party Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Approval of SSIs (if required)

5.10 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 2 October 2025

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

followed by Members' Business

2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.30 pm Portfolio Questions: Social Justice and Housing

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Dog Theft (Scotland) Bill

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

(b) that, for the purposes of Portfolio Questions in the week beginning 22 September 2025, in rule 13.7.3, after the word "except" the words "to the extent to which the Presiding Officer considers that the questions are on the same or similar subject matter or" are inserted.

The motion was agreed to.

5. Stage 1 Timetable: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-18922—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Crofting and Scottish Land Court Bill at stage 1 be completed by 16 January 2026.

The motion was agreed to.

6. Committee Remits: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-18923—That the Parliament agrees to the following revisions to the remits of committees—

Name of Committee: Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee

Remit: To consider and report on matters relating to local government and planning falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government, matters relating to housing and tenants' rights within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, and matters relating to local government boundaries, local governance review and democratic renewal.

New remit: To consider and report on matters relating to local government and planning falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government, matters within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Housing, with the exception of matters related to homelessness and rough sleeping, fuel poverty, and welfare and debt advice services; and matters relating to local government boundaries, local governance review and democratic renewal.

Name of Committee: Social Justice and Social Security Committee

Remit: To consider and report on matters falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice excluding matters relating to housing and tenants' rights.

New remit: To consider and report on matters falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, and matters related to homelessness and rough sleeping, fuel poverty, and welfare and debt advice services within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Housing.

Name of Committee: Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee

Remit: To consider and report on matters falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Transport and the Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy, with the exception of matters relating to just transition; and on matters relating to land reform, natural resources and peatland, Scottish Land Commission, Crown Estate Scotland and Royal Botanic Garden within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands.

New remit: To consider and report on matters falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Transport and the Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and

Energy, with the exception of matters relating to just transition; and on matters relating to land reform, natural resources and peatland, Scottish Land Commission, Crown Estate Scotland and Royal Botanic Garden within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

7. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 3 and 6 as noted above.

8. Nuclear Incidents: The Parliament debated S6M-18614 in the name of Bill Kidd—That the Parliament notes reports of the disclosure of a number of safety incidents at His Majesty's Naval Base Clyde (Faslane) and the Royal Naval Armaments Depot Coulport, including the second Category A incident in two years; further notes that the UK Government and Ministry of Defence documentation has confirmed a number of "near-miss" incidents and safety breaches, including the radioactive contamination of Loch Long; notes what it sees as the concerns of constituents in Glasgow Anniesland and people across Scotland, and recognises the importance of ensuring the highest safety standards at these sites, particularly given their proximity to communities in Argyll and Bute and the wider west of Scotland.

9. Welcoming the Supreme Court's Judgment on the Definition of the Word "Woman": The Parliament debated S6M-17234 in the name of Pam Gosal—That the Parliament welcomes and respects the judgment of the Supreme Court of the UK on 16 April 2025 in the case, For Women Scotland Ltd v The Scottish Ministers; recognises that the court unanimously ruled that the terms "woman" and "sex" in the Equality Act 2010 refer to biological woman and biological sex; congratulates For Women Scotland on what it sees as the group's hard work and dedication in protecting and strengthening women's rights; considers that this decision will have many implications for the rights of women and girls, including those living in East and West Dunbartonshire, and notes calls on the Scottish Government to review its policies to ensure that these are in line with the law.

10. Motion without Notice: Pam Gosal 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.

The meeting closed at 6.18 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
17 September 2025

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 17 September 2025—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 63rd Report, 2025 (Session 6): Supplementary Delegated Powers in the Criminal Justice Modernisation and Abusive Domestic Behaviour Reviews (Scotland) Bill (as amended at Stage 2) (SP Paper 861)

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 17 September 2025 and are subject to the affirmative procedure—

First-tier Tribunal for Scotland General Regulatory Chamber Police Appeals and Upper Tribunal for Scotland (Composition) Regulations 2025 [draft]
laid under section 79(2)(c) of the Tribunals (Scotland) Act 2014

First-tier Tribunal for Scotland General Regulatory Chamber (Police Appeals) (Procedure) Regulations 2025 [draft]
laid under section 79(2)(c) of the Tribunals (Scotland) Act 2014

First-tier Tribunal for Scotland (Transfer of Functions and Members of the Police Appeals Tribunal) Regulations 2025 [draft]
laid under section 79(2)(a) and (b) of the Tribunals (Scotland) Act 2014

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 17 September 2025 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Adult Disability Payment: A report prepared for the Auditor General for Scotland (AGS/2025/7) laid under the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Highland Health Board (Known as NHS Highland) Annual Report and Accounts for Year Ended 31 March 2025 (SG/2025/195) laid under Section 22 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Independent National Whistleblowing Officer: Compendium of Case Reports for September 2025 (INWO/2025/09) laid under Sections 15(1) and 15(1A) of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002

NHS Lanarkshire Annual Report and Consolidated Accounts for Year ended 31 March 2025 (SG/2025/196) laid under Section 22 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

NHS Lothian Annual Report and Accounts Year ended 31st March 2025 (SG/2025/197) laid under Section 22 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

NHS Orkney Annual Report and Accounts For Year Ended 31 March 2025 (SG/2025/198) laid under Section 22 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

NHS Shetland Annual Report and Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2025 (SG/2025/199) laid under Section 22 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

The Scottish Consolidated Fund Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (SG/2025/174) laid under Section 20 subsection 6 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Scottish Public Services Ombudsman: Compendium of Case Reports for September 2025 (SPSO/2025/09) laid under Sections 15(1) and 15(1A) of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002

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