



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 97, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 1 April 2025

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

- 1. Time for Reflection:** Laura Gillespie, Humanist, led Time for Reflection.
- 2. Revision to Business:** Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-17058—That the Parliament agrees to the following revisions to the programme of business for—
 - (a) Wednesday 2 April 2025—

delete

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

followed by Ministerial Statement: Heat in Buildings Bill

insert

2.00 pm Motion of Condolence

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

delete

5.30 pm Decision Time

and insert

6.00 pm Decision Time

(b) Thursday 3 April 2025—

after

followed by Ministerial Statement: Project Willow - Unlocking Grangemouth's Potential

insert

followed by Ministerial Statement: Heat in Buildings Bill

delete

5.00 pm Decision Time

and insert

5.30 pm Decision Time

The motion was agreed to.

3. Topical Questions: Questions were answered by a Cabinet Secretary.

4. Ministerial Statement: The Acting Minister for Climate Action (Alasdair Allan) made a statement and answered questions on Tackling Fuel Poverty in Scotland: Periodic Report 2021-2024.

5. Criminal Justice Modernisation and Abusive Domestic Behaviour Reviews (Scotland) Bill: The Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs (Angela Constance) moved S6M-17003—That the Parliament agrees to the general principles of the Criminal Justice Modernisation and Abusive Domestic Behaviour Reviews (Scotland) Bill.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

6. Criminal Justice Modernisation and Abusive Domestic Behaviour Reviews (Scotland) Bill: Financial Resolution: The Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs (Angela Constance) moved S6M-16806—That the Parliament, for the purposes of any Act of the Scottish Parliament resulting from the Criminal Justice Modernisation and Abusive Domestic Behaviour Reviews (Scotland) Bill, agrees to any expenditure of a kind referred to in Rule 9.12.3A of the Parliament's Standing Orders arising in consequence of the Act.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

7. Data (Use and Access) Bill - UK Legislation: The Minister for Business (Richard Lochhead) moved S6M-17009—That the Parliament agrees that clauses 1 to 11, 13, 18 to 26, 45(3), 48 and 123 of the Data (Use and Access) Bill, introduced in the House of Lords on 23 October 2024, so far as these matters fall within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament or alter the executive competence of the Scottish Ministers, should be considered by the UK Parliament.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

8. Appointment of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman: Ariane Burgess, on behalf of the Selection Panel, moved S6M-17008—That the Parliament nominates Paul McFadden to His Majesty The King for appointment as the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman under section 1 of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

9. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 5, 6, 7 and 8 as noted above.

10. Learning Disability, Autism and Neurodivergence Bill: The Parliament debated S6M-16644 in the name of Daniel Johnson— That the Parliament notes its disappointment at reports that the promised Learning Disability, Autism and Neurodivergence Bill was not announced in the most recent Programme for Government; believes that people with learning disabilities, autism and neurodivergence in Lothian and across Scotland are structurally excluded and disadvantaged, and that it is harder for them to achieve their potential than people who are neurotypical; considers that the measures included in the draft Bill, such as creating and upholding statutory rights, improving access to mental health services and tailoring education provision, would break down some of the barriers faced by people with learning disabilities, autism or neurodivergence, given that a reported 37% of schoolchildren reportedly have additional support needs but that only 6% of teachers are trained to provide these, and notes the calls on the Scottish Government to provide clarity on its commitment to legislating in this area.

11. Motion Without Notice: Daniel Johnson moved 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 6.14 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
1 April 2025

Appendix

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 1 April 2025—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 23rd Report, 2025 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation Considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 1 April 2025 (SP Paper 767)

Subordinate Legislation

Negative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 1 April 2025 and is subject to the negative procedure—

Coronavirus (Recovery and Reform) (Scotland) Act 2022 (Saving Provisions) Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/101)
laid under section 58(3)(b) of the Coronavirus (Recovery and Reform) (Scotland) Act 2022

Legislative Consent Memorandum

The following memorandum was lodged on 28 March 2025—

Neil Gray, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care: Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Tobacco and Vapes Bill (UK Parliament legislation) (LCM-S6-51a)

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 28 March 2025 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

The Environment Strategy for Scotland: Progress report on Environment Strategy March 2025 (SG/2025/68) laid under Section 47(12) of the UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Continuity) (Scotland) Act 2021

Police Service of Scotland Annual Police Plan 1st April 2025 – 31st March 2026 (PSOS/2025/001) laid under section 35 of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012

Scottish Canals - Annual Report & Accounts 2023/24 (SG/2025/12) laid under section 24(3) of the Transport Act 1962 and under section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Scrutiny report on draft Regulations: The Social Security (Cross-border Provision, Case Transfer and Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland)

Regulations 2025 (SCoSS/2025/04) laid under sections 22 and 97 of the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018

Scrutiny report on draft Regulations: The Carer's Assistance (Young Carer Grant and Carer Support Payment) (Miscellaneous Amendment and Saving Provision) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 – additional provision (SCoSS/2025/05) laid under sections 22 and 97 of the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 31 March 2025 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Community Justice Outcome Activity Annual Report 2023-2024 (SG/2025/29) laid under Section 27 of the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016

Community Justice Scotland: Community Payback Order Summary of Local Authority Annual Reports 2023-24 (SG/2025/28) laid under Section 227ZM of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995

National Islands Plan: Annual Report 2024 (SG/2025/32) laid under section 5 of the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018

Tackling Fuel Poverty in Scotland: Periodic Report 2021-2024 (SG/2025/37) laid under Section 11(b) of the Fuel Poverty (Targets, Definition and Strategy) (Scotland) Act 2019

“This is our lives...it matters a lot.”: Putting children's rights at the heart of education (CCYP/2025/01) laid under Section 12 of the Commissioner for Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2003

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 1 April 2025 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Animals and Wildlife (Penalties, Protections and Powers) (Scotland) Act 2020: A review of provisions and requirements for additional Animal Welfare, Animal Health and Wildlife Offences (SG/2025/40) laid under Section 16 of the Animals and Wildlife (Penalties, Protections and Powers) (Scotland) Act 2020

Scottish Land Commission Programme of Work April 2025 - September 2026 (SG/2025/67) laid under Section 9(3)(b) of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016

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