



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 98, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 2 April 2025

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

**1. Motion of Condolence:** The First Minister (John Swinney) moved S6M-17000—That the Parliament expresses its deep sadness at the death of Christina McKelvie MSP; offers its profound sympathy and condolences to her family and friends, and recognises her significant and widely appreciated contribution to Scottish politics and public life through years of dedicated service to her constituents in Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse, as a champion for social justice, as a convener of two Scottish Parliament committees, and as a Scottish Government minister since 2018.

The motion was agreed to.

**2. Portfolio Questions:** Questions on Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands, and then on Health and Social Care, were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.

**3. Ministerial Statement:** The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government (Shona Robison) made a statement on The Impact of the UK Government's Spring Statement on Scotland.

**4. Scottish Government Debate: The Impact of the UK Government's Spring Statement on Scotland:** The Parliament debated The Impact of the UK Government's Spring Statement on Scotland.

**5. Business Programme:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-17059—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 22 April 2025

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Topical Questions (if selected)

*followed by* Scottish Government Debate: The International Situation

*followed by* Committee Announcements

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Wednesday 23 April 2025

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Constitution, External Affairs and Culture, and Parliamentary Business; Justice and Home Affairs

*followed by* Scottish Government Debate: UK Government Welfare Reforms

*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 24 April 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: Education and Skills

*followed by* Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee Debate: Inquiry into Framework Legislation and Henry VIII Powers

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 29 April 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 30 April 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* Scottish Conservative and Unionist 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 1 May 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: Net Zero and Energy, and Transport

*followed by* Scottish Government Business

*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 21 April 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.

Miles Briggs moved amendment S6M-17059.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-17059 in the name of Jamie Hepburn (Business Programme), leave out “The International Situation” and insert “Addressing Violence in Schools”.

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to (by division: For 31, Against 60 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 26).

The motion was agreed to (by division: For 88 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 28, Abstentions 0).

**6. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-17060—That the Parliament agrees that the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002 Amendment Order 2025 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**7. Designation of Lead Committee:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-17061—That the Parliament agrees that the Economy and Fair Work Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the Community Wealth Building (Scotland) Bill at stage 1.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

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

**9. Scotland's Islands:** The Parliament debated S6M-16901 in the name of Jamie Halcro Johnston—That the Parliament recognises what it sees as the social and economic importance and contribution of Scotland’s islands, their residents and their businesses; further recognises what it considers are the challenges of living on and running a business on islands and delivering public services to island communities, but believes that islanders, including many from across the Highlands and Islands region, have remarkable entrepreneurship that has fostered advancements in a varied portfolio of sectors, including distilling, manufacturing, space exploration and a growing number of micro and social enterprises; values the distinctive and often unique cultural contribution of the islands to Scotland, the rest of UK and the world; believes that island communities provide many opportunities, but notes concerns that they can face many unique challenges, including the threat of depopulation, without the provision of adequate housing, healthcare, transport links and connectivity.

The meeting closed at 7.15 pm.

**David McGill**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
2 April 2025

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