



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 99, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 3 April 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. Celebrating the University of the West of Scotland's Groundbreaking Foundation Academy:** The Parliament debated S6M-16633 in the name of George Adam—That the Parliament applauds the work of the University of the West of Scotland (UWS) and what it sees as the groundbreaking work that it is doing with the Foundation Academy, which is a 12-month programme helping pupils across S5 and S6 to develop academic skills, experience university-level study, and visit a university campus in order to boost their confidence in pursuing higher education and strengthen university applications; understands that the programme is the first of its kind in Scotland and has been recognised by various institutions as an alternative pathway to meeting the required qualifications to enter university; acknowledges how successful the academy has reportedly been for the thousands of pupils who have benefited from the additional support offered since the launch of the programme in 2022, and praises the time and effort of all those involved in the creation and running of the programme for the impact that this is having on pupils, including those in the Paisley constituency, who otherwise may not have been able to attend university.
- 4. Portfolio Questions:** Questions on Social Justice were answered by a Cabinet Secretary.

**5. Ministerial Statement:** The Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic (Kate Forbes) made a statement and answered questions on Project Willow - Unlocking Grangemouth's Potential.

**6. Ministerial Statement:** The Minister for Climate Action (Alasdair Allan) made a statement and answered questions on Heat in Buildings Bill.

**7. Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee and Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee Debate: The Aarhus Convention and Access to Environmental Justice.** The Parliament debated The Aarhus Convention and Access to Environmental Justice.

**8. Decision Time:** There were no decisions to be taken at Decision Time on the items noted above.

The meeting closed at 5.30 pm.

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

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

**Subordinate Legislation**

**Negative Instruments**

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 3 April 2025 and is subject to the negative procedure—

Disease Control (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Order 2025 (SSI 2025/108)  
laid under section 32(3) of the Animal Health Act 1981

**Laid Only Instruments**

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 3 April 2025 and are not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Scottish Elections (Representation and Reform) Act 2025 (Commencement No. 1)  
Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/106 (C.10))  
laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform  
(Scotland) Act 2010

Bankruptcy and Diligence (Scotland) Act 2024 (Commencement No. 2, Transitional  
and Saving Provisions) Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/107 (C. 11))  
laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform  
(Scotland) Act 2010

**Legislative Consent Memorandum**

The following memorandum was lodged on 3 April 2025—

Neil Gray, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care: Supplementary  
Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Employment Rights Bill (UK  
Parliament legislation) (LCM-S6-53a)

**Other Documents**

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 3 April 2025 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**Scrutiny report on draft Regulations: Winter Heating Assistance (Pension Age) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2025 (SCoSS/2025/06)** under sections 22 and 97 of the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018

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