



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 78, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 6 February 2025

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

The meeting opened at 11.40.

**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. Report on Alcohol Use Disorder in the Justice System:** The Parliament debated S6M-15657 in the name of Elena Whitham—That the Parliament notes the publication of the Scottish Health Action on Alcohol Problems' paper, *Alcohol (In)justice: Position on people with an alcohol use disorder in the justice system*; is concerned that it is estimated that almost two-thirds, 63%, of people in prison have an alcohol use disorder, with almost half of those, 31%, possibly dependent on alcohol; is further concerned that the risk of death from alcohol causes is three times higher in men and nine times higher for women who have been in prison than for the general population; understands that the paper sets out why and how people with alcohol use disorders who come into contact with the justice system should have the best opportunities to access treatment and support, and that this could reduce reoffending and pressures on the justice system, tackle inequalities, improve the health and lives of the people concerned and the lives of their families and wider communities; believes that there are examples of innovative practice across Scotland, including Glasgow's Alcohol Court; acknowledges that the paper further sets out several potential standards that could be implemented across the justice system, and understands that accountability for such standards is required in order to make a difference to the health and lives of people in Carrick, Cumnock and Doon

Valley and across Scotland with alcohol problems who are being dealt with by the justice system.

**4. Portfolio Questions:** Questions on Net Zero and Energy, and Transport were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and a Minister.

**5. Ministerial Statement:** The Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans (Graeme Dey) made a statement and answered questions on Simplifying the Post-School Education and Skills Funding Body Landscape in Scotland.

**6. Improving Miscarriage Care:** The Minister for Public Health and Women's Health (Jenni Minto) moved S6M-16353—That the Parliament recognises the devastating impact that miscarriage and stillbirth can have on women and their families, and extends its condolences to all those who have been affected; acknowledges the importance of good stillbirth care and that improvements continue to be made by NHS boards and through the stillbirth national bereavement care pathway; notes that, although miscarriage care in Scotland is generally considered to be of high quality, there is still more to do to standardise and end the variation in the care and support delivered across Scotland; welcomes efforts from NHS boards to further improve miscarriage care following recommendations in The Lancet series, Miscarriage Matters, and Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and NICE guidelines around the use of progesterone; thanks hardworking NHS staff and all those who have contributed to the progress to date for their care and professionalism when caring for women experiencing miscarriage; welcomes the publication of the Delivery Framework for Miscarriage Care in Scotland and the Progesterone Pathway as key steps in implementing a graded model of care that will ensure that women receive tailored support from their first miscarriage; supports the provision of dedicated facilities for women experiencing unexpected pregnancy complications, miscarriage or still birth, and believes that it is vital that everyone in society, including employers, works together to break the stigma surrounding miscarriage and stillbirth to ensure that women and their families can access the information, care and support that is right for them.

The motion was agreed to (DT)

**7. Great British Energy Bill - UK Legislation:** The Acting Minister for Climate Action (Alasdair Allan) moved S6M-16346—That the Parliament agrees that all relevant provisions of the Great British Energy Bill, introduced in the House of Commons on 25 July 2024 and subsequently amended, so far as these matters fall within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament and alter the executive competence of the Scottish Ministers, should be considered by the UK Parliament.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 88 (including 4 proxy votes), Against 28, Abstentions 1).

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

The meeting closed at 5.38 pm.

**David McGill**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
6 February 2025

## **Appendix**

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

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