



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 80, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 19 February 2025

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

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

**2. Ministerial Statement:** The Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise (Natalie Don-Innes) made a statement and answered questions on The Promise Oversight Board Report 3: Progress and Next Steps Towards Keeping The Promise.

**3. Protecting the Powers of the Scottish Parliament:** The Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic (Kate Forbes) moved S6M-16511— That the Parliament notes the publication of the UK Government’s consultation and review of the United Kingdom Internal Market Act 2020, which sets out that it will “not consider whether to repeal the UK Internal Market Act or any part of it”; recalls that both the Scottish Parliament and Welsh Senedd refused to give the Act legislative consent; notes the position of the Welsh Government, which opposes the Act, believing it to be “an unwarranted attack on devolution”; reaffirms its decision regarding the Act on 3 October 2023, and calls for it to be repealed.

Rachael Hamilton moved amendment S6M-16511.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-16511 in the name of Kate Forbes (Protecting the Powers of the Scottish Parliament), leave out from “, which sets” to end and insert “; recognises the fundamental importance of the UK internal

market to Scotland's businesses, investment and jobs, given that trade with the rest of the UK accounts for over 60% of Scotland's total exports, worth over £52 billion annually; believes that the integrity of the UK internal market is essential to economic stability, consumer confidence and business certainty across Scotland; notes that the Scottish Government has consistently failed to make effective use of the extensive powers already devolved to the Scottish Parliament by presiding over declining public service performance and failing to roll out devolved benefits on time; further notes that, rather than constructively engaging with the opportunities afforded by devolution, the Scottish National Party administration has prioritised constitutional grievance over delivering for the people of Scotland, and condemns the Scottish Government for its attacks on the powers of the Scottish Parliament through its leaking of crucial policies to the press before being announced to the Parliament, passing legislation that bypasses proper parliamentary scrutiny and failing to answer questions from parliamentarians about important topics that are in the public interest."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 28, Against 74 (including 3 proxy votes), Abstentions 17).

Neil Bibby moved amendment S6M-16511.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-16511 in the name of Kate Forbes (Protecting the Powers of the Scottish Parliament), leave out from first "notes" to end and insert "welcomes the publication of the UK Government's consultation and review of the United Kingdom Internal Market Act 2020, which is broader in scope and being carried out earlier than required by law; notes the change of UK administration in July 2024 and welcomes its commitment to resetting the relationship between the UK Government and devolved governments and its intention to uphold its responsibilities under the Windsor Framework; welcomes the immediate commitment from the UK Government to delivering the joint common framework programme ahead of the review; believes that changes to the Act, co-operation between governments, respect for devolution and ensuring that there are no barriers to trade between Scotland and the rest of the UK are all essential; further believes that the interests of supporting Scotland's businesses and economic growth should be paramount; welcomes that the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee is due to take evidence on the review, and awaits its findings, and encourages Scotland's businesses, and other stakeholders, to take part in the review by 3 April 2025."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 23, Against 97 (including 3 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 73 (including 3 proxy votes), Against 47, Abstentions 0).

**4. Renters' Rights Bill - UK Legislation:** The Minister for Housing (Paul McLennan) moved S6M-16499—That the Parliament agrees that the relevant provisions of the Renters' Rights Bill, introduced in the House of Commons on 11 September 2024, which restrict the behaviour of private landlords, in relation to those

with children and those who are benefit claimants, namely clauses 49, 52, 54, 137, 139, 142 and 145 of the Renters' Rights Bill, so far as these matters fall within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament and alter the executive competence of Scottish Ministers, should be considered by the UK Parliament.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**5. Business Programme:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-16519—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 25 February 2025

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Topical Questions (if selected)

*followed by* Stage 3 Proceedings: Budget (Scotland) (No. 4) Bill

*followed by* Committee Announcements

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Wednesday 26 February 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 Green Party Business

*followed by* Appointment of Member of the Standards Commission for Scotland

*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 27 February 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* Scottish Government Debate: Local Government Finance (Scotland)  
Order 2025

*followed by* Scottish Government Debate: Increasing Investment in Scotland

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 4 March 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 5 March 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 Government Business

*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 6 March 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* Committee Debate: Tackling Drug Deaths and Drug Harm

*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 24 February 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.

**6. Stage 2 Timetable:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-16520—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Housing (Scotland) Bill at stage 2 be completed by 29 May 2025.

The motion was agreed to.

**7. Stage 2 Consideration of a Bill:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-16521—That the Parliament agrees that stage 2 of the Housing (Scotland) Bill be taken as follows—

(a) under Rule 9.7.1(b) and 9.7.4—

(i) the Social Justice and Social Security Committee to consider in the following order—

(A) part 5

(B) sections 48 to 50 in part 6

(ii) the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee to consider in the following order—

(A) parts 1 to 4

(B) part 6 (except sections 48 to 50)

(C) part 7, with the schedule being considered immediately after the section that introduces it

(D) the long title

(b) any amendments specifically on matters relating to the part 5 homelessness prevention provisions or the part 6 fuel poverty provisions, except any such amendments to the schedule or the long title, are to be considered by the Social Justice and Social Security Committee; and

(c) all amendments not covered by paragraphs (a) and (b) are to be considered by the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**8. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-16522—That the Parliament agrees that the Moveable Transactions (Scotland) Act 2023 Amendment Regulations 2025 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**9. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-16523—That the Parliament agrees that the Registers of Scotland (Fees and Plain Copies) Miscellaneous Amendments Order 2025 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**10. Decision Time:** The Parliament took decisions on items 3, 4, 7, 8 and 9 as noted above.

**11. Tackling the Rise in Rural Crime and Equipment Theft in Scotland:** The Parliament debated S6M-16304 in the name of Rachael Hamilton—That the Parliament acknowledges the reported concerns regarding rising rural crime and its impact on communities across Scotland, including in the Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire constituency; notes that, according to NFU Mutual, the cost of rural crime in Scotland increased by 34.9% between 2022 and 2023, rising from £1.4 million to £1.8 million, contributing to a UK-wide cost of £58.8 million; recognises that 91% of those surveyed by NFU Mutual believe that rural crime is becoming more organised; notes that equipment and machinery theft, including agricultural machinery, construction equipment and power tools, has a significant financial and operational impact on farmers and businesses across urban and rural Scotland; acknowledges what it considers the effectiveness of technical preventative measures such as the CESAR scheme, tracking devices, immobilisers, PIN-protected GPS systems, and mechanical immobilisers, which it understands are more widely used in other parts of the UK; understands that the Equipment Theft (Prevention) Act 2023 was passed with cross-party support in the UK Parliament to address these issues; notes the belief that there is an opportunity to strengthen equipment and machinery crime prevention in Scotland, and further notes the calls on the Scottish Government to engage with industry experts, Police Scotland and victims to explore further action to tackle this type of crime.

The meeting closed at 5.53 pm.

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

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

**Committee Reports**

The following report was published on 19 February 2025—

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee, 3rd Report, 2025 (Session 6):  
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee Report on a further  
supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Great British Energy  
Bill (SP Paper 739)

**Subordinate Legislation**

**Made Affirmative Instruments**

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 19 February 2025 and is subject to the made affirmative procedure—

Scottish Landfill Tax (Standard Rate and Lower Rate) Order 2025 (SSI 2025/41)  
laid under section 41(3) of the Landfill Tax (Scotland) Act 2014

**Negative Instruments**

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 19 February 2025 and is subject to the negative procedure—

Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration) Amendment (Amendment)  
Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/36)  
laid under section 16(4) of the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004

**Other Documents**

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 19 February 2025 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**Scottish Public Services Ombudsman: Compendium of Case Reports for February 2025 (SPSO/2025/02)** laid under Sections 15(1) and 15(1A) of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002

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