



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 84, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 27 February 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. Protection of Park Home Residents:** The Parliament debated S6M-15739 in the name of Murdo Fraser—That the Parliament believes that there are approximately 100 park home residential sites across Scotland, including in the Mid Scotland and Fife region, and that these contain more than 8,000 residents, with a typical residency of pensioners and retirees; further believes that park homes are a growing component of the housing stock; notes that residents own their park home and associated structure, but not the land that the park home is located on, and understands that the average cost of such homes varies between £90,000 and £250,000; recognises that there are reported concerns about park homes being mis-sold as main residencies despite site owners only having holiday licences, which leaves occupiers vulnerable to eviction; applauds the work of the Scottish Confederation of Park Home Residents Association (SCOPHRA) in raising awareness of the legal issues facing park home residents in Scotland and in protecting its members, and acknowledges SCOPHRA's reported calls for action on crucial areas such as including the organisation in the planning approval process for park home sites, supporting local authorities with proper training regarding park home legislation, and providing support for adaptations to park homes to aid those with disabilities and health conditions.

4. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Education and Skills were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and Ministers.

5. Local Government Finance (Scotland) Order 2025: The Minister for Public Finance (Ivan McKee) moved S6M-16489—That the Parliament agrees that the Local Government Finance (Scotland) Order 2025 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 84 (including 3 proxy votes), Against 1, Abstentions 24).

6. Increasing Investment in Scotland: The Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic (Kate Forbes) moved S6M-16595—That the Parliament agrees that increasing the level of investment in the Scottish economy is critical to delivering on the Scottish Government's priorities of improving public services, supporting a thriving economy, tackling the climate emergency, and eradicating child poverty; recognises that the Scottish Government's programme of public investment, particularly in the priority areas of net zero, housing and infrastructure, is vital for leveraging private investment across the Scottish economy, to stimulate growth in key sectors, improve productivity and create jobs; welcomes the annual EY survey, which shows that Scotland is outpacing the UK as a whole when it comes to securing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) projects, and three Scottish cities ranked in the UK's top 10 locations for FDI outside of London, and believes that Scotland's strengths and expertise in areas such as technology, financial services, food and drink, tourism and the energy transition make Scotland the ideal place to invest and deliver projects that bring wider benefits to the Scottish economy.

Murdo Fraser moved amendment S6M-16595.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-16595 in the name of Kate Forbes (Increasing Investment in Scotland), leave out from “on the” to end and insert “economic growth; believes that public sector investment in infrastructure is essential in facilitating growth and therefore notes with alarm the delays to, and uncertainty around, the project to dual the A9 from Perth to Inverness and the Scottish Government's temporising on dualling the A96; recognises that private investment is necessary to maintain a supply of core goods and services, and therefore condemns the severe damage done to the build-to-rent housing sector by rent cap schemes; acknowledges that success in attracting foreign direct investment is measured as much in project value as in project count; urges the Scottish Government to reverse its opposition to nuclear energy, which limits both investment in energy projects as well as the long-term supply of reliable energy near where it is in demand; emphasises that investment is intrinsically linked to the availability of skilled labour, and notes, therefore, with concern that the Scottish Government's highest-in-the-UK income tax rates are limiting industry access to skilled workers, thereby undermining investment and economic growth.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 44, Against 68 (including 3 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

Daniel Johnson moved amendment S6M-16595.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-16595 in the name of Kate Forbes (Increasing Investment in Scotland), insert at end “; recognises the best practice that is happening across the UK, including in Greater Manchester, where joined-up working across the public and private sector, investment in infrastructure, and an industrial strategy have boosted investment in the region; notes Department for Business and Trade statistics showing that Scotland comes seventh out of 12 for jobs created by inward investment projects, compared to fourth for the North West of England, and believes that the Scottish Government and Scottish Enterprise have failed to maximise Scotland's economic potential and provide support to sectors that are key to Brand Scotland and attracting inward investment, including tourism, food and drink, and financial services.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 21, Against 92 (including 3 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 86 (including 3 proxy votes), Against 28, Abstentions 0).

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

The meeting closed at 5.11 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
27 February 2025

Appendix

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

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 27 February 2025 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2025 [draft]
laid under section 58(4)(b) of the Regulatory Reform (Scotland) Act 2014

Laid Only Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 27 February 2025 and is not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Bail and Release from Custody (Scotland) Act 2023 (Commencement No. 2)
Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/52 (C. 6))
laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform
(Scotland) Act 2010

Other Documents

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 27 February 2025 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Press Recognition Panel Annual report on the recognition system 27 February 2025 (SG/2025/27) laid under paragraph 10.b of Schedule 2 of the Royal Charter on Self-Regulation of the Press

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