



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 75, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 30 January 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. Scottish Engineering's Engineering Skills Gap Analysis for Scotland:** The Parliament debated S6M-16148 in the name of Alex Rowley — That the Parliament notes the publication of Scottish Engineering's report, Engineering Skills Gaps Analysis for Scotland; is concerned by the findings of the report, the production of which aims to allow industry and government to work in partnership to maximise the opportunities for Scotland's economy, and its society as a result; notes that the results in the report are derived from the output of a survey of 70 engineering companies based on their operations in Scotland; is concerned with the findings of the report that skills pipeline gaps for existing industry are "an immediately stark situation" with "no allowance for the additional demands" of offshore wind, grid infrastructure investment, decarbonising heat energy or green hydrogen production; notes the view from the survey that "unless there is a rapid change in the required skills investment there is a considerable risk of damage to incumbent industry [and a] risk to inward investors of failure to reach the skilled staffing levels they require, with negative impact on their projects, and reputational risk to Scotland's ability to accommodate such opportunity"; further notes the view that the Scottish and UK governments must encourage the next generation of skilled workers and make the funding and resources needed available to provide the apprenticeships of today for

the jobs of tomorrow, and notes the calls in the Mid Scotland and Fife region and across the country for the Scottish Government to take action to foster a new partnership between schools, colleges, universities and industry to ensure that young people are aware and able to take advantage of the opportunities available in Scotland's industrial sector, and that the future of Scottish industry is secured for the benefit of people across Scotland.

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

5. Ministerial Statement: The Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture (Angus Robertson) made a statement and answered questions on Creative Scotland Multi-Year Funding.

6. Scottish Budget 2025-26: Kenneth Gibson, on behalf of the Finance and Public Administration Committee, moved S6M-16239—That the Parliament notes the pre-budget scrutiny undertaken by the Finance and Public Administration Committee, and other parliamentary committees.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

7. Appointment of Board Members to Environmental Standards Scotland : The Acting Minister for Climate Action (Alasdair Allan) moved S6M-16275—That the Parliament notes the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee's consideration of the re-appointment of four board members to the board of Environmental Standards Scotland at its meeting on 26 November 2024; welcomes the committee's recommendation that the Parliament approves the re-appointment of Marie Fallon and Dr Paul McAleavey for a further four years, and Dr Richard Dixon and Dr Annalisa Savaresi for a further three years, in accordance with schedule 1, paragraph 2(5) and (6) of the UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Continuity) (Scotland) Act 2021, and approves the appointments as required by schedule 1, paragraph 2(2) of the Act.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

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

The meeting closed at 5.01 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
30 January 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 30 January 2025 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Budget (Scotland) Act 2024 Amendment Regulations 2025 [draft]
laid under section 7(2) of the Budget (Scotland) Act 2024

Negative Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 30 January 2025 and are subject to the negative procedure—

Scottish Road Works Register (Prescribed Fees) Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/18)
laid under section 163(1) of the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991

Non-Domestic Rating (Valuation of Utilities) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2025 (SSI 2025/19)
laid under section 6A(2) of the Valuation and Rating (Scotland) Act 1956

Other Documents

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 30 January 2025 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Scotland's Budget Documents: The 2024-25 Spring Budget Revision to the Budget (Scotland) Act for the year ending 31 March 2025 (SG/2025/22) laid at the request of a member of the Scottish Government and not under any laying power

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