



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 85, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 4 March 2025

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

**1. Time for Reflection:** Martha Inés Romero, Secretary General of Pax Christi International, led Time for Reflection.

**2. Revision to Business:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-16684—That the Parliament agrees to the following revisions to the programme of business for Tuesday 4 March 2025—

after

*followed by* Topical Questions

insert

*followed by* First Minister's Statement: International Solidarity to Support Ukraine

delete

5.00 pm Decision Time

and insert

5.30 pm Decision Time

The motion was agreed to.

**3. Topical Questions:** Questions were answered by a Minister.

**4. First Minister's Statement:** The First Minister (John Swinney) made a statement and answered questions on International Solidarity to Support Ukraine.

**5. Scotland's Renewable Future:** The Acting Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy (Gillian Martin) moved S6M-16657—That the Parliament rejects the creation of new nuclear power plants in Scotland and the risk that they bring; believes that Scotland's future is as a renewables powerhouse; further believes that the expansion of renewables should have a positive impact on household energy bills; notes the challenges and dangers of producing and managing hazardous radioactive nuclear waste products, and the potentially catastrophic consequences of the failure of a nuclear power plant; recognises that the development and operation of renewable power generation is faster, cheaper and safer than that of nuclear power, and welcomes that renewables would deliver higher employment than nuclear power for the development and production of equivalent levels of generated power.

Douglas Lumsden moved amendment S6M-16657.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-16657 in the name of Gillian Martin (Scotland's Renewable Future), leave out from "rejects" to end and insert "recognises the importance of renewable energy in Scotland's future, but believes that a balanced energy mix, including investment in new nuclear power, such as small modular reactors, is essential to ensuring a secure, clean and affordable energy source by reducing the country's reliance on foreign energy and creating a reliable energy supply for the UK; acknowledges that nuclear power is a proven, low-carbon energy source that operates independently of weather conditions, complementing the variability of renewables and reducing reliance on imported fossil fuels; notes that, while renewables will play a central role in Scotland's energy transition, they alone cannot provide the constant, stable supply required to meet demand; acknowledges that Scotland's oil and gas sector has been a cornerstone of the UK's energy security and economy for decades and will continue to play a crucial role in providing reliable energy, supporting skilled jobs and driving investment in clean energy innovation; recognises the vital contribution of energy companies in leading the transition to a cleaner future through investments in emerging technologies that will underpin net zero goals while maintaining energy resilience; notes that, whilst new renewable and electrical infrastructure is needed, the right of communities to object must be respected, with wind turbines, battery energy storage systems, pylons and other infrastructure only being built where it has the express consent of residents; calls for an energy strategy that embraces renewables, nuclear and the managed use of domestic oil and gas to ensure affordable, stable and low-carbon energy for Scotland's households and businesses, and welcomes the economic and employment opportunities that a broad-based energy mix will bring to Scotland."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 29, Against 89 (including 3 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

Sarah Boyack moved amendment S6M-16657.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-16657 in the name of Gillian Martin (Scotland's Renewable Future), leave out from "rejects" to end and insert "recognises the huge potential, and progress made, in Scotland to develop renewable energy generation capacity; considers that Scotland has a future as a renewables powerhouse and that this will help with the long-term ambitions to decarbonise Scotland's energy usage; acknowledges that, to successfully transition to low- and zero-carbon energy sources and deliver energy security, it will require a sustainable generation baseline; considers that nuclear energy is therefore an essential part of the future energy mix, as a highly efficient, zero-emissions source of energy that generates over 20% of the electricity consumed in Scotland; notes that Torness nuclear power station directly supports hundreds of jobs, as well as many more in the wider economy in the region, and welcomes the decision to extend its lifespan; welcomes the support from the UK Government for the next generation of nuclear energy technology and the development of small modular reactors; regrets that Scotland will miss out on these investment and job opportunities due to the Scottish Government's opposition to new nuclear energy projects, and calls on it to end its outdated ideological opposition to small modular reactors."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 46, Against 72 (including 3 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

Patrick Harvie moved amendment S6M-16657.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-16657 in the name of Gillian Martin (Scotland's Renewable Future), insert at end " ; believes, however, that for the benefits of renewable energy to be maximised, further action is needed; further believes that both governments should place a higher priority on public and community ownership of renewable energy infrastructure; recognises the need for the UK Government to make changes to energy regulation and pricing to incentivise renewable generation, storage and grid infrastructure, and to make electrification of heat and transport more financially attractive, and further recognises the urgent need for the Scottish Government to end the delays to the Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan and the planned Heat in Buildings Bill, which must be introduced to the Parliament as soon as possible."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 11, Against 33, Abstentions 75 (including 3 proxy votes)).

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 69 (including 3 proxy votes), Against 50, Abstentions 0).

**6. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-16685—That the Parliament agrees that the Rural Support (Improvement) (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

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

**8. Holistic Approach to Alcohol-related Brain Damage:** The Parliament debated S6M-16291 in the name of Carol Mochan— That the Parliament notes what it sees as the concerning and under-recognised issue of alcohol-related brain damage (ARBD) in the South Scotland region and across the country; believes that there are significant permanent physical, psychological and social consequences of the condition, including decreased cognitive functioning, mental health problems and harm to quality of life; notes the view that there is a need to adopt a more holistic multidisciplinary approach, integrating healthcare, social services, public health and addiction teams for people with alcohol dependence; further notes the belief in working collaboratively to prioritise the recognition, prevention and treatment of ARBD, ensuring healthcare professionals are adequately trained to identify and manage the condition, with adequate resources provided to ensure early diagnosis and treatment, and recognises the calls for public health campaigns to raise awareness and remove stigma.

The meeting closed at 6.26 pm.

**David McGill**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
4 March 2025

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

**Committee Reports**

The following report was published on 28 February 2025—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 15th Report, 2025 (Session 6): Legislative Consent Memorandum: delegated powers relevant to Scotland in the Tobacco and Vapes Bill (SP Paper 745)

The following reports were published on 4 March 2025—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 17th Report, 2025 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation Considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 4 March 2025 (SP Paper 746)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 16th Report, 2025 (Session 6): Legislative Consent Memorandum: Legislative Consent Memorandum: delegated powers relevant to Scotland in the Employment Rights Bill (SP Paper 747)

**Subordinate Legislation**

**Negative Instruments**

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 3 March 2025 and are subject to the negative procedure—

Council Tax Reduction and Council Tax (Discounts) (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/55)  
laid under section 113(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992

Council Tax (Exempt Dwellings) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2025 (SSI 2025/56)  
laid under section 113(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992

Health and Care Professions Council (Miscellaneous Amendments) Rules Order of Council 2025 (SI 2025/240)  
laid under article 42 of the Health Professions Order 2001

**Legislative Consent Memorandum**

The following memorandum was lodged on 3 March 2025—

Kate Forbes, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic: Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Product Regulation and Metrology Bill (UK Parliament legislation) (LCM-S6-50a)

## **Other Documents**

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 28 February 2025 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**Scrutiny report on draft Regulations: The Carer’s Assistance (Young Carer Grant and Carer Support Payment) (Miscellaneous Amendment and Saving Provision) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 (SCoSS/2025/03)** laid under sections 22 and 97 of the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018

**Wildlife Crime in Scotland 2023 (SG/2025/24)** laid under Section 20 of the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011

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

**Scottish Hospitals Inquiry Interim Report: The Royal Hospital for Children and Young People and Department of Clinical Neuroscience, Edinburgh 2025 (SG/2025/18)** laid under section 26 of the Inquiries Act 2005

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