



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 87, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 6 March 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. Impact of UK Welfare Reforms in Scotland: The Parliament debated S6M-16536 in the name of Marie McNair—That the Parliament condemns the Labour UK administration for its reported intention to proceed with what it sees as punitive welfare reforms proposed under the previous Conservative administration; notes the calls on the UK Government to immediately reverse its plans, which, it considers, could seriously impact disabled people and increase financial insecurity in vulnerable households; further notes with alarm reports that, by 2029, over 450,000 disabled people and people with long-term conditions across the UK could be impacted as a result of the proposed reforms to Work Capability Assessment, with, it understands, many losing payments currently worth over £400 per month; is deeply concerned by what it sees as the callous language of UK Government ministers when discussing welfare reform, including the reported comment by the UK work and pensions secretary that some benefit claimants are "taking the mickey"; notes what it sees as the contrast between what it considers the demonisation of welfare recipients, under the UK Government, and the Scottish Government's continued commitment to a devolved social security system based on dignity, fairness and respect; welcomes the reported investment of £1.3 billion above the UK block grant adjustment for social security expenditure in the draft Budget 2025-26, which reflects what it

considers to be the social contract between the Scottish Government and the people of Scotland; understands that the Scottish Government is set to invest up to £210 million in measures to mitigate what it sees as UK Government austerity policies such as the so-called bedroom tax, benefit cap and cut to the Winter Fuel Payment in 2025-26, and notes the calls encouraging disadvantaged or low-income households across Scotland, including disabled and long-term ill people in the Clydebank and Milngavie constituency, to check their eligibility for social security payments and to claim the support to which they are entitled.

4. Covid-19 Day of Reflection: The Parliament debated Covid-19 Day of Reflection.

5. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Net Zero and Energy, and Transport were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and a Minister.

6. Criminal Justice Committee, Health, Social Care and Sport Committee and Social Justice and Social Security Committee Debate: The People's Panel Report on Reducing Drug Harm and Deaths in Scotland: The Parliament debated The People's Panel Report on Reducing Drug Harm and Deaths in Scotland.

7. Decision Time:

There were no decisions to be taken at Decision Time on the items noted above.

The meeting closed at 5.17 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
6 March 2025

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 6 March 2025—

Economy and Fair Work Committee, 4th Report, 2025 (Session 6):
Subordinate legislation considered by the Economy and Fair Work Committee
on 5 March (SP Paper 748)

Subordinate Legislation

Negative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 6 March 2025 and is subject to the negative procedure—

Police Pension Scheme (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/58)
laid under section 24 of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013

Other Documents

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 5 March 2025 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

HMICS Custody Inspection Report – Greater Glasgow (HMICS/2025/01) laid
under section 79(3) of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 6 March 2025 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Report to the Scottish Parliament in Respect of Changes to the Police Pension Scheme (Scotland) Regulations 2015 (SG/2025/41) laid under Section 22 of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013

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