



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 89, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 12 March 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. Protecting Single-sex Spaces in the Public Sector: Russell Findlay moved S6M-16755—That the Parliament believes that the Scottish Government has failed to give sufficient clarity to the public sector about ensuring the availability of single-sex spaces for women and girls, such as toilets and changing rooms; acknowledges that this failure has resulted in workers in the public sector and school pupils having to share single-sex spaces with individuals of the opposite sex, jeopardising their safety, dignity and privacy, and subjecting some to horrific incidents of sexual abuse and harassment, and calls on the Scottish Government to urgently issue a directive to all public sector organisations requiring that adequate single-sex spaces for biological women and girls are provided on their premises in line with legal obligations.

The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice (Shirley-Anne Somerville) moved amendment S6M-16755.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-16755 in the name of Russell Findlay (Protecting Single-sex Spaces in the Public Sector), leave out from “believes” to end and insert “notes that the Scottish Government fully upholds the Equality Act 2010, and requires all public bodies to comply with the law, and welcomes the role of the Equalities and Human Rights Commission in providing codes of practice and guidance.”

Jackie Baillie moved amendment S6M-16755.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-16755 in the name of Russell Findlay (Protecting Single-sex Spaces in the Public Sector), leave out from “, such as toilets” to end and insert “; acknowledges concerns about dignity and privacy; notes recent research on safety in hospitals relating to rape and sexual assault; calls for more accurate recording and reporting in the NHS, including to the police, leading to better protections; further calls for an end to mixed sex wards; supports ensuring that schools are designed as accessible and welcoming environments for all, including accessible and single-sex toilets, and calls for the Scottish Government to outline how single-sex provision will be delivered in public buildings, such as schools and hospitals, and in line with legal obligations.”

Maggie Chapman moved amendment S6M-16755.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-16755 in the name of Russell Findlay (Protecting Single-sex Spaces in the Public Sector), leave out from first “the Scottish Government” to end and insert “all women deserve protection from misogyny, including transmisogyny; condemns the rise in transphobic rhetoric and policy; believes that transgender and nonbinary people contribute immensely to the wellbeing of Scotland’s communities; reiterates its commitment to human rights for all, including freedom from discrimination and upholding the Equality Act 2010; requires all public bodies to comply with the law, and welcomes the role of the Equalities and Human Rights Commission in providing codes of practice and guidance.”

After debate, amendment S6M-16755.3 was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 57 (including 3 proxy votes), Against 50, Abstentions 7 (including 1 proxy vote)). As a result, amendments S6M-16755.1 and S6M-16755.2 were pre-empted.

The motion, as amended, was then agreed to ((DT) by division: For 61 (including 4 proxy votes), Against 31, Abstentions 20).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament notes that the Scottish Government fully upholds the Equality Act 2010, and requires all public bodies to comply with the law, and welcomes the role of the Equalities and Human Rights Commission in providing codes of practice and guidance.

3. Urgent Question: An urgent question, to ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on what engagement it has had with the University of Dundee regarding its financial recovery plan and proposed reduction in staffing, was answered by the Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans (Graeme Dey).

4. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-16768—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 18 March 2025

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Protecting and Growing Scotland's Iconic Food and Drink Sector

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 19 March 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 Labour Party Business

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 20 March 2025

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

followed by Members' Business

2.15 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.15 pm Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body Questions

2.30 pm Portfolio Questions: Education and Skills

followed by Rural Affairs and Islands Committee Debate: Salmon Farming in Scotland

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 25 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 26 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 Stage 1 Debate: Land Reform (Scotland) Bill

followed by Financial Resolution: Land Reform (Scotland) Bill

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 27 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 Stage 1 Debate: Schools (Residential Outdoor Education) (Scotland) Bill

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 17 March 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.

5. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-16769—That the Parliament agrees that the Scottish Landfill Tax (Standard Rate and Lower Rate) Order 2025 (SSI 2025/41) be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

6. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-16770—That the Parliament agrees that the Tied Pubs (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

7. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 2, 5 and 6 as noted above.

8. International Women’s Day 2025: The Parliament debated S6M-16573 in the name of Audrey Nicoll—That the Parliament notes that International Women’s Day 2025 takes place on 8 March; notes that the theme for 2025, Accelerating Action, is in recognition of calls for increased momentum and urgency to address the barriers that women face, and notes those standing together in solidarity to celebrate the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women in the Aberdeen South and North Kincardine constituency, across Scotland and around the world.

The meeting closed at 6.22 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
12 March 2025

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

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 12 March 2025—

Finance and Public Administration Committee, 3rd Report, 2025 (Session 6):
Subordinate Legislation: The Scottish Landfill Tax (Standard Rate and Lower
Rate) Order 2025 [draft] (SP Paper 751)

Social Justice and Social Security Committee, 2nd Report, 2025 (Session 6):
Subordinate legislation considered by the Social Justice and Social Security
Committee on 6 March 2025 (SP Paper 752)

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee, 1st Report, 2025 (Session 6): The
Community Care (Personal Care and Nursing Care) (Scotland) Amendment
Regulations 2025 [draft] (SP Paper 753)

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee, 4th Report, 2025 (Session 6):
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee report on the Bus Travel
Concession Schemes (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Order 2025
(SP Paper 754)

Legislative Consent Memorandum

The following memorandum was lodged on 12 March 2025—

Shirley-Anne Somerville, Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice: Legislative
Consent Memorandum on the Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Bill
(UK Parliament legislation) (LCM-S6-54)

Other Documents

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 12 March 2025 and is not
subject to parliamentary procedure—

Animal Health Act 1981: Expenditure and Prosecutions – 2024 (SG/2025/15)
laid under Section 80 of the Animal Health Act 1981

Published by the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body

All documents are available on
the Scottish Parliament website at:

www.parliament.scot/documents

For information on the Scottish Parliament contact
Public Information on:

Telephone: 0131 348 5000 or 0800 092 7500

Email: sp.info@parliament.scot

Live chat on parliament.scot

You can write to us in any language or contact us
using the Text Relay service or in British Sign

Language through contactScotland-BSL.

© Parliamentary copyright. Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body

The Scottish Parliament's copyright policy can be found on the website -
www.parliament.scot or by contacting Public Information.