



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 93, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 20 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. Awareness of Criminal Exploitation of Children:** The Parliament debated S6M-16434 in the name of Michael Matheson—That the Parliament welcomes the recent reports of Professor Alexis Jay and Action for Children, and the charity's service provision, which highlight the issue of criminal exploitation of children; considers that the testimony from exploited young people, Action for Children staff who support these young people, and other professionals connected with this work have described the harrowing and shocking experiences that children have encountered; understands that this issue hides in plain sight and that criminal exploitation of children can take place anywhere across Scotland, including in the Falkirk West constituency, and can happen to anyone; believes that these reports offer an opportunity to raise awareness of this important topic with members of the public, parliamentarians and decision makers, while also creating the chance to explore solutions to tackling this form of child abuse, and notes the belief that, in doing so, society can help to meet the aims and vision of The Promise, ensuring that Scotland does become the best place in the world for children and young people to grow up, where they feel loved, safe, respected and able to realise their full potential.

4. Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body Questions: Questions were answered by members of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body.

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

6. Salmon Farming in Scotland: Finlay Carson, on behalf of the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee, moved S6M-16852—That the Parliament notes the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee's 1st Report, 2025 (Session 6), Follow-up inquiry into salmon farming in Scotland (SP Paper 720).

The motion was agreed to (DT)

7. Urgent Question: An urgent question, to ask the Scottish Government what its response is to the Project Willow report, was answered by the Deputy First Minister (Kate Forbes).

8. Decision Time: The Parliament took a decision on item 6 as noted above.

The meeting closed at 5.04 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
20 March 2025

Appendix

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

Subordinate Legislation

Laid Only Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 20 March 2025 and is not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Aggregates Tax and Devolved Taxes Administration (Scotland) Act 2024
(Commencement No. 1) Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/79 (C.8))
laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform
(Scotland) Act 2010

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