



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 95, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 26 March 2025

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Deputy First Minister Responsibilities, Economy and Gaelic, and then on, Finance and Local Government were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.

2. Ministerial Statement: The Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise (Natalie Don-Innes) made a statement and answered questions on Secure Accommodation in Scotland – Capacity.

3. Land Reform (Scotland) Bill: The Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands (Mairi Gougeon) moved S6M-16892—That the Parliament agrees to the general principles of the Land Reform (Scotland) Bill.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 91 (including 3 proxy votes), Against 29, Abstentions 0).

4. Land Reform (Scotland) Bill: Financial Resolution: The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government (Shona Robison) moved S6M-16960—That the Parliament, for the purposes of any Act of the Scottish Parliament resulting from the Land Reform (Scotland) Bill, agrees to any expenditure of a kind referred to in Rule 9.12.3A of the Parliament's Standing Orders arising in consequence of the Act.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 90 (including 3 proxy votes), Against 30, Abstentions 0).

5. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-16941—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business--

Tuesday 1 April 2025

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Ministerial Statement: Tackling Fuel Poverty in Scotland: Periodic Report 2021-2024

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Criminal Justice Modernisation and Abusive Domestic Behaviour Reviews (Scotland) Bill

followed by Financial Resolution: Criminal Justice Modernisation and Abusive Domestic Behaviour Reviews (Scotland) Bill

followed by Legislative Consent Motion: Data (Use and Access) Bill - UK Legislation

followed by Appointment of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 2 April 2025

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands; Health and Social Care

followed by Ministerial Statement: Heat in Buildings Bill

followed by Ministerial Statement: The Impact of the UK Government's Spring Statement on Scotland

followed by Scottish Government Debate: The Impact of the UK Government's Spring Statement on Scotland

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Approval of SSIs (if required)

5.30 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 3 April 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: Social Justice

followed by Ministerial Statement: Project Willow - Unlocking Grangemouth's Potential

followed by Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee, and Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee Debate: The Aarhus Convention and Access to Environmental Justice

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 22 April 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 23 April 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 Government Business

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 24 April 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: Education and Skills

followed by Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee Debate: Inquiry into Framework Legislation and Henry VIII Powers

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 31 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.

6. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-16942—That the Parliament agrees that the Public Appointments and Public Bodies etc. (Scotland) Act 2003 (Treatment of Qualifications Scotland as Specified Authority) Order 2025 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 70 (including 3 proxy votes), Against 0, Abstentions 50).

7. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-16943—That the Parliament agrees that the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 (Part 2 Further Extension) Order 2025 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

8. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-16944—That the Parliament agrees that the Budget (Scotland) Act 2024 Amendment Regulations 2025 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

9. Designation of Lead Committee: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-16945—That the Parliament agrees that the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the legislative consent memorandum relating to the Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Bill (UK Legislation).

The motion was agreed to (DT).

10. Designation of Lead Committee: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-16946—That the Parliament agrees that the Education, Children and Young People Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the Restraint and Seclusion in Schools (Scotland) Bill at stage 1.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

11. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 as noted above.

12. Ending Destitution in Scotland – a Road Map for Policymakers: The Parliament debated S6M-16539 in the name of Maggie Chapman—That the Parliament notes the recent publication by Professor Jen Ang of the legal briefing, *Ending Destitution in Scotland – a Road Map for Policymakers*; further notes that this report was commissioned by I-SPHERE and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, as part of the Fair Way Scotland partnership, following the publication in September 2024 of the paper *Destitution by Design: righting the wrongs of UK immigration policy in Scotland*; understands that the legal briefing sets out clear, actionable steps that lie within the powers of the Scottish Parliament and the Scottish Government to reduce destitution for people coming to Scotland to study, work, join family or seek sanctuary; further understands that there are clear recommendations about access to social security and financial support, housing, transport, health and social care, justice and legal aid, education, and work; notes the view that the Scottish Government can and should be doing more to prevent destitution in Scotland, including in the North East Scotland region; further notes the view that the complexity of UK immigration law, and the challenges of striking the right balance in the exercise of powers within the devolution settlement, must no longer be an excuse for failure to act on the part of the Scottish Government and local authorities, in the face of what it sees as overwhelming evidence of the harms caused to people with no recourse to public funds/other restricted eligibility, and to the communities in which they live; notes the view that Scotland can create a fairer system based on need and the realisation of rights, ensuring that everyone has access to essential services and what they need to live a life of dignity, regardless of their immigration status; further notes the calls on the Scottish Government to act on each of the recommendations, including to review devolved policy to eliminate unintended exclusions from support, to establish and scale up the financial support available, to ensure appropriate training and resources for all frontline workers, and to negotiate a clearer understanding of “public funds”, as defined by the Home Office, and congratulates the Fair Way Scotland Partnership on its ongoing work to prevent destitution in Scotland.

13. Motion without Notice: Maggie Chapman moved without notice that, under Rule 8.14.3, the debate be extended by up to 30 minutes.

The motion was agreed to.

The meeting closed at 6.47 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
26 March 2025

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

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 26 March 2025 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

3rd Annual Report: Developments in the UK Internal Market 2024-2025 (OIM/2025/04) laid under section 33 of the United Kingdom Internal Market Act 2020

Consumer Scotland Work Programme 2025-2026 (CS/2025/01) laid under the Consumer Scotland Act 2020 subsection (4) section 14

General practice: Progress since the 2018 General Medical Services contract A report prepared for the Auditor General for Scotland (AGS/2025/3) laid under the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

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