



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 96, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 27 March 2025

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

The meeting opened at 11.40 am.

- 1. General Questions:** Following the death of Christina McKelvie MSP, the Presiding Officer and the First Minister addressed the Chamber. General Questions were not taken.
- 2. First Minister's Questions:** Questions were answered by the First Minister (John Swinney).
- 3. 300 Years of The Black Watch:** The Parliament debated S6M-16128 in the name of Liz Smith— That the Parliament marks the tercentenary of the origins of The Black Watch; understands that, in 1725, six companies were raised by General George Wade, comprising of “loyal” clans, including the Campbells, Grants, Frasers and Munros, and formed the Highland watches to police the Highlands following the 1715 Jacobite rebellion; notes that a further four companies were raised in 1739 to form the Regiment of the Line, which first mustered at Aberfeldy; understands that, throughout this period, the companies began being referred to as Am Freiceadan Dubh or The Black Watch; believes that this term was likely due to the dark tartan uniform that was worn by its soldiers; recognises what it sees as the significance of the regiment's involvement throughout the UK's most important and consequential military campaigns, ranging from, but not limited to, the Seven Years' War, the American War of Independence, the Napoleonic wars, the Crimean War, the Boer War, the First and Second World Wars, the Korean War, the Troubles in Northern Ireland and the Gulf Wars; acknowledges what it sees as the fearless and renowned reputation that The Black Watch established and reinforced over the course of these conflicts, as well as the countless stories of individual gallantry, particularly the 14

soldiers who received the UK's highest military decoration, the Victoria Cross; commemorates all who have served and died in the historic regiment, who have predominately come from across Perth and Kinross, Fife, Dundee and Angus, but also the rest of Scotland and beyond, and offers its full support to the veterans, and their families, who are alive today.

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

5. Ministerial Statement: The Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs (Angela Constance) made a statement and answered questions on Response to Fatal Accident Inquiries (Deaths in Custody).

6. Schools (Residential Outdoor Education) (Scotland) Bill: Liz Smith moved S6M-16789—That the Parliament agrees to the general principles of the Schools (Residential Outdoor Education) (Scotland) Bill.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 64, Against 1, Abstentions 53 (including 2 proxy votes)).

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

The meeting closed at 5.35 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
27 March 2025

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 27 March 2025—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 22nd Report, 2025 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation Considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 25 March 2025 (SP Paper 765)

Legislative Consent Memorandum

The following memorandum was lodged on 27 March 2025—

Gillian Martin, Acting Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy: Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Planning and Infrastructure Bill (UK Parliament legislation) (LCM-S6-56)

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 27 March 2025 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Act 2019 – Yearly report on the use of Section 28 - to take a child under 12 to a place of safety (SG/2025/72) laid under Section 32 of the Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Act 2019

Competition and Markets Authority Annual Plan 2025 to 2026: Promoting Competition and Protecting Consumers to Drive Growth, Opportunity, and Prosperity for the UK (CMA/2025/02) laid under Schedule 4 s13(2)(b) of the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013

Fifteenth Annual Report on the Operation of Section 72 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 (SG/2025/31) laid under Section 73 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

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