



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 3, No. 46, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 14 November 2023

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

- 1. Time for Reflection:** Dr Muhammad Adrees, President of the Muslim Council of Scotland, led Time for Reflection.
- 2. Topical Questions:** Questions were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and a Minister.
- 3. Ministerial Statement:** The Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy (Neil Gray) made a statement and answered questions on Ferguson Marine.
- 4. Building A New Scotland: Migration to Scotland after Independence:** The Minister for Independence (Jamie Hepburn) moved S6M-11237—That the Parliament notes that Scotland's population growth has relied on migration into Scotland; welcomes the fact that there are currently more people choosing to move to Scotland from the rest of the UK than those moving in the opposite direction; recognises the benefits of EU freedom of movement, which was lost as a result of Brexit; agrees that a decline in the working population would damage Scotland's public services and economy; deplores the UK Government's hostile rhetoric towards migrants, and welcomes the proposals in the Scottish Government paper, Migration to Scotland after independence, for a humane migration system tailored to Scotland's needs.

Donald Cameron moved amendment S6M-11237.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-11237 in the name of Jamie Hepburn (Building a New Scotland: Migration to Scotland after Independence), leave out from “notes” to end and insert “regrets that Scotland has consistently taken below its population share of migrants, compared to the rest of the UK; acknowledges that Scotland is the highest taxed nation in the UK; agrees that a decline in the working population would harm Scotland's public services and economy, and recognises that the Scottish Government must work with the UK Government to address these long-term population challenges.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 29, Against 80, Abstentions 0).

Paul O'Kane moved amendment S6M-11237.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-11237 in the name of Jamie Hepburn (Building a New Scotland: Migration to Scotland after Independence), leave out from first “welcomes” to end and insert “deplores the UK Conservative administration's hostile rhetoric towards migrants; notes the Scottish Government paper, Migration to Scotland after independence; agrees that a decline in the working population would damage Scotland's public services and economy; expresses its concern that recent UK and Scottish governments have left Scotland lacking the skills that it needs for the future; welcomes, therefore, the commitment from the UK Labour Party to build an immigration system that works for all the nations and regions of the United Kingdom, and agrees that, as well as ensuring that skills bodies in Scotland and elsewhere in the UK are frequently consulted, in order to inform the immigration system, there is more that the Scottish Government should be doing now to plan for the skills needs in the Scottish economy.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 17, Against 90, Abstentions 2).

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 60, Against 49, Abstentions 0).

**5. Decision Time:** The Parliament took a decision on item 4 as noted above.

**6. Children's Grief Awareness Week 2023:** The Parliament debated S6M-11114 in the name of Stuart McMillan—That the Parliament notes that 16 to 23 November 2023 is Children's Grief Awareness Week; understands that more than half of children in Scotland have experienced bereavement of a close family member by the age of eight, according to a study by the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ) and the University of Strathclyde, which was published in 2020, before the impact of COVID-19 was taken into account; further understands that 62% of children in Scotland have lost a close family member by the age of 10 according to the Childhood Bereavement Network; acknowledges that the theme for 2023 is The Shape of Your Support, with the focus being on the people around a bereaved child or young person, beyond their friends or family, who can be there to support them through their grief; further acknowledges that the key question that is being asked is “Who else can you ask for help or support beyond your friends and family?”; welcomes what it sees as the great work being undertaken in Inverclyde by

the Inverclyde Bereavement Network and former Clydeview Academy pupil, Ben Kane, who set up a support group in the school for children who are dealing with bereavement and has held talks with Inverclyde Council about expanding the service to all Inverclyde schools; recognises the work of Child Bereavement UK and its national development coordinator for Scotland in supporting young people when they are dealing with grief, and believes that the efforts of all organisations working in the sector are making a meaningful impact to Scotland's young people during what it considers to be such a difficult period in their lives.

The meeting closed at 5.38 pm.

**David McGill**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
14 November 2023

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

**Committee Reports**

The following report was published on 13 November 2023—

Criminal Justice Committee, 15th Report, 2023 (Session 6): Report on the International Organisations Immunities draft Order and the Coronavirus Recovery and Reform Scotland Act 2022 draft Regulations 2023 (SP Paper 469)

**Subordinate Legislation**

**Negative Instruments**

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 10 November 2023 and are subject to the negative procedure—

Fly-tipping (Fixed Penalty) (Scotland) Order 2023 (SSI 2023/335)  
laid under section 160A(1) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990

Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2023 (SSI 2023/336)  
laid under section 143(8) of the Environment Act 2021

Feed Additives (Authorisations) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 (SSI 2023/339)  
laid under Article 18A(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003

**Laid Only Instruments**

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 13 November 2023 and is not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Spring Traps Approval (Scotland) Amendment Order 2023 (SSI 2023/340)  
laid under section 30 of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

**Other Documents**

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 13 November 2023 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**Scottish Land Commission Annual Report & Accounts 2022-2023**  
**(SG/2023/283)** laid under Section 20(2)(c) of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016 and Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 14 November 2023 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland, Annual Report and Accounts 2022-2023, Year Ended 31 March 2023 (SG/2023/284)** laid under Section 10 (3) of the Commissioner for Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2003

**Social Security Scotland Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (SG/2023/83)** laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

**Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018: Progress Report 2022 - 2023 (SG/2023/241)** laid under sections 20 and 87 of the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018

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