



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 3, No. 31, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 26 September 2023

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

- 1. Time for Reflection:** Helen Border, Chairperson, Friends of Divine Mercy Scotland, led Time for Reflection.
- 2. Topical Questions:** Questions were answered by Ministers.
- 3. Climate Emergency: Ambition and Action:** The Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero and Just Transition (Màiri McAllan) moved S6M-10597—That the Parliament reaffirms its commitment to tackling the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss; welcomes the action taken by people, communities, workers, businesses and local and national government to take Scotland half way to net zero, but recognises that the hardest part of the journey lies ahead; acknowledges the necessity of ambition, leadership and consistency on that journey and that, given the limits of devolution, all nations of the UK must work in partnership to complete the journey; deeply regrets, therefore, the unilateral reversal of policies set out by the UK Government on 20 September 2023; urges the UK Government to listen to overwhelming feedback and rethink what is an unforgivable betrayal of current and future generations, and calls for a new, mutually respectful four-nations partnership in meeting one of the most significant challenges facing people and the planet in this century.

Douglas Lumsden moved amendment S6M-10597.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-10597 in the name of Màiri McAllan (Climate Emergency: Ambition and Action), leave out from “ambition” to end and insert

“practical consideration, international co-operation, fairness to consumers and consistent achievement of targets to realistically fulfil net zero and biodiversity ambitions; recognises that policies aimed at reaching net zero goals must be affordable and should not impose expensive costs on households and businesses; welcomes, therefore, the new net zero policy announcements from the UK Government, which provide extensive household upgrade support with more scope for consumer freedom, bring the UK petrol and diesel car sales timelines in line with the European Union's and demonstrate a commitment to realistic achievement of ambitious environmental goals without alienating households, and deeply regrets the Scottish Government's hostility to these announcements, which only makes tackling climate change and biodiversity loss a more divisive issue.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 28, Against 88, Abstentions 0).

Sarah Boyack moved amendment S6M-10597.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-10597 in the name of Màiri McAllan (Climate Emergency: Ambition and Action), insert at end “; acknowledges that setting ambitious targets is only part of the job, and that action must be taken to meet those targets; believes that the Scottish Government is not utilising all the powers that it already has to the benefit of tackling the climate crisis, and regrets, therefore, the Scottish Government repeatedly missing its own targets and underspending in its climate and net zero budgets.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 51, Against 64, Abstentions 0).

Beatrice Wishart moved amendment S6M-10597.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-10597 in the name of Màiri McAllan (Climate Emergency: Ambition and Action), insert at end “; believes that the Scottish Government must launch an emergency national insulation programme to reduce emissions and help households with the cost of living crisis; agrees that, just as collaboration with the UK Government and other devolved governments is required, far greater partnership is also essential between the Scottish Government and local authorities, in light of the Climate Change Committee reporting in December 2022 regarding a lack of a coordinated approach, local powers and funding, and believes that continued systematic underfunding of local authorities will hold back their efforts to reduce emissions.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 52, Against 64, Abstentions 0).

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 86, Against 29, Abstentions 0).

4. Revision to Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-10621—That

the Parliament agrees to the following revision to the programme of business for Wednesday 27 September 2023—

delete

6.00 pm Decision Time

and insert

6.30 pm Decision Time

The motion was agreed to.

5. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on item 3 as noted above.

6. Devolution of Employment Law: The Parliament debated S6M-10491 in the name of Keith Brown—That the Parliament considers that anti-trade union legislation, such as the Conduct of Employment Agencies and Employment Businesses (Amendment) Regulations 2022, and the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Act 2023, poses a significant risk to workers' rights, including in the Clackmannanshire and Dunblane constituency; believes that a progressive approach to industrial relations along with greater, not fewer, protections for workers is at the heart of a fairer and stronger economy; further believes that trade unions are key social partners in delivering economic and social aspiration, and that they are vital for ensuring that the voices of workers are heard; welcomes that the TUC has recently backed a motion calling for the devolution of employment law to Scotland and a repeal of all current anti-trade union legislation; considers that devolution of employment law is supported by the majority of current MSPs; notes the calls on the UK Government not to further erode what it sees as the hard-won rights of workers; further notes its commitment to working in partnership to entrench and build on these rights, and notes the calls for employment law to be devolved to the Scottish Parliament immediately.

7. Motion without Notice: Keith Brown 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 6.29 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
26 September 2023

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 22 September 2023—

Finance and Public Administration Committee, 7th Report, 2023 (Session 6):
Report on the Land and Buildings Transaction Tax (Green Freeports Relief)
(Scotland) Order 2023 [draft] (SP Paper 436)

The following reports were published on 26 September 2023—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 54th Report, 2023 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 26 September 2023 (SP Paper 439)

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee, 13th Report, 2023 (Session 6):
Report on the supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum for the
Energy Bill (UK Parliament Legislation) (SP Paper 440)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 55th Report, 2023 (Session 6):
Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum: delegated powers
relevant to Scotland in the Energy Bill (UK Parliament legislation) (SP Paper
441)

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 25 September 2023 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Heat Networks (Supply Targets) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 [draft]
laid under section 99(2) of the Heat Networks (Scotland) Act 2021

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 22 September 2023 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Community Justice Scotland Corporate Plan 2023-2026 (SG/2023/141) laid
under Section 10 of the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016

Scottish Land Commission Programme of Work September 2023 - March 2025 (SG/2023/202) laid under Section 9(3)(b) of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016

The Scottish Land Commission Strategic Plan 2023-26 (SG/2023/155) laid under
Section 8(5)(b) of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 25 September 2023 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

HM Fire Service Inspectorate - Climate Change: managing the operational impact on fires and other weather-related emergencies (SG/2023/153) laid under Section 43C(5) of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005

Registers of Scotland Annual Report and Accounts 2022-23 (SG/2023/183) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 26 September 2023 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Scottish Biometrics Commissioner Annual Report and Accounts 2022/23 (SG/2023/165) laid under Section 31 of the Scottish Biometrics Commissioner Act 2020

Scottish Biometric Commissioner Annual Report 1 April 2022 - 31 March 2023 (SG/2023/167) laid under Section 32 of the Scottish Biometrics Commissioner Act 2022

Scottish National Investment Bank Annual Report and Accounts 2023 (SG/2023/190) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

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