



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 3, No. 100, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 23 April 2024

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Time for Reflection: Rt Rev Sally Foster-Fulton, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, led Time for Reflection.

2. Revision to Business: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam) moved S6M-12946—That the Parliament agrees to the following revisions to the programme of business for—

(a) Tuesday 23 April 2024—

after

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

insert

followed by Ministerial Statement: Gender Identity Healthcare for Young People

delete

5.00 pm Decision Time

and insert

5.30 pm Decision Time

(b) Wednesday 24 April 2024—

delete

9.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

and insert

8.20 pm Decision Time

(c) Thursday 25 April 2024—

delete

5.00 pm Decision Time

and insert

3.55 pm Decision Time.

The motion was agreed to.

3. Topical Questions: Questions were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and Ministers.

4. Ministerial Statement: The Minister for Public Health and Women's Health (Jenni Minto) made a statement and answered questions on Gender Identity Healthcare for Young People.

5. Victims, Witnesses, and Justice Reform (Scotland) Bill: The Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs (Angela Constance) moved S6M-12922—That the Parliament agrees to the general principles of the Victims, Witnesses, and Justice Reform (Scotland) Bill.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 60, Against 0, Abstentions 62).

6. Victims, Witnesses, and Justice Reform (Scotland) Bill: Financial Resolution: The Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance (Shona Robison) moved S6M-12560—That the Parliament, for the purposes of any Act of the Scottish Parliament resulting from the Victims, Witnesses, and Justice 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).

7. Appointment of Members of the Standards Commission for Scotland: Maggie Chapman moved S6M-12910—That the Parliament agrees, under section 8

of the Ethical Standards in Public Life etc. (Scotland) Act 2000, to appoint Morag Ferguson and Lezley Stewart as Members of the Standards Commission for Scotland.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

8. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 5, 6 and 7 as noted above.

9. Seventh Anniversary of the Two-child Benefit Cap: The Parliament debated S6M-12841 in the name of Clare Haughey— That the Parliament regrets to mark the seventh anniversary of the introduction by the UK Government of the two-child benefit cap, and the associated so-called rape clause; notes with alarm reports that over 87,000 children across Scotland are affected by the cap, including 3,610 in South Lanarkshire; further notes the work of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, which reports that the poverty rate for children in families with three or more children was almost twice as high as the poverty rate for children in one- or two-child families in 2021-22, at 43% compared with 23% and 22% respectively, as a result of UK welfare policies such as the two-child benefit limit; highlights what it considers to be the contrast between the inhumane practices of the UK Government's Department for Work and Pensions and the compassionate approach of the Scottish Government's Social Security Scotland; understands that the Scottish Government has already spent more than £733 million over the last five financial years to mitigate UK Government welfare policies, despite what it sees as a remarkably challenging financial environment and the fiscal limitations of devolution; notes that the Scottish Child Payment and other devolved policies are forecast to keep up to 100,000 children in Scotland out of relative poverty in this financial year; further notes the view that Scotland should continue to build a social security system that is founded on dignity, fairness and respect, and notes the calls urging the UK Government to reverse the two-child benefit cap and what it regards as the other abhorrent and ineffective welfare reforms that have been implemented over more than a decade of austerity.

10. Motion without Notice: Clare Haughey 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 6.35 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
23 April 2024

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 22 April 2024—

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee, 6th Report, 2024 (Session 6):
Stage 1 Report on the Abortion Services (Safe Access Zones) (Scotland) Bill
(SP Paper 567)

The following report was published on 23 April 2024—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 27th Report, 2024 (Session
6): Delegated powers in the Scottish Languages Bill at Stage 1 (SP Paper
569)

Subordinate Legislation

Laid Only Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 19 April 2024 and is not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Tied Pubs (Scotland) Act 2021 (Commencement No. 1) Regulations 2024 (SSI
2024/113 (C. 10))
laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform
(Scotland) Act 2010

Other Documents

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 19 April 2024 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Wildlife Crime in Scotland 2022 (SG/2024/45) laid under Section 20 of the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 22 April 2024 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Ayrshire College Board of Management Report and Financial Statements For the year ended 31 July 2023 (SG/2024/51) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Borders College Annual Report and Financial Statement 2022/23 (SG/2024/52) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

City of Glasgow College Annual Report and Accounts 2022-23 (SG/2024/53) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Dundee and Angus College Report and Financial Statements For the year ended 31 July 2023 (SG/2024/55) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Dumfries and Galloway College Annual Report and Financial Statements for the period 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2023 (SG/2024/54) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 23 April 2024 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Edinburgh College Annual Report & Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2023 (SG/2024/56) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Fife College Annual Accounts For the year ended 31 July 2023 (SG/2024/57) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Glasgow Clyde College Annual Report and Financial Statements for Year Ending 31 July 2023 (SG/2024/59) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Glasgow Colleges' Regional Board Annual Report and Consolidated Financial Statements 2022-23 (SG/2024/60) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

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