



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 3, No. 69, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 18 January 2024

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

The meeting opened at 11.40 am.

- 1. General Questions:** Questions were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and Ministers.
- 2. First Minister's Questions:** Questions were answered by the First Minister (Humza Yousaf).
- 3. International Insights, A Model for Scotland:** The Parliament debated S6M-11509 in the name of Ruth Maguire—That the Parliament welcomes the publication of the report, International Insights, by A Model For Scotland, which is a campaign group for progressive prostitution law reform; considers that the report highlights important findings related to what Scotland can learn from international efforts to combat commercial sexual exploitation; further considers that, whilst the Scottish Government recognises prostitution as a form of violence against women, and has committed to develop a model for Scotland to challenge men's demand for prostitution, it is currently legal in Scotland to perpetrate and profit from prostitution, and that victims receive sanctions rather than support, including in the Cunninghame South constituency; believes that Scotland's approach to tackling sex trafficking and sexual exploitation can build on the experiences and learning of other countries, and notes the view that Scotland must join the growing number of countries taking action to combat commercial sexual exploitation by ensuring that the new model for Scotland criminalises paying for sex, decriminalises and provides support to women involved in the sex trade and holds pimping websites accountable.

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

5. Ministerial Statement: The Minister for Victims and Community Safety (Siobhian Brown) made a statement and answered questions on New Safeguards in Relation to XL Bully Dogs.

6. Scottish Rural and Islands Youth Parliament: The Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands (Mairi Gougeon) moved S6M-11896—That the Parliament acknowledges the important contribution that the Scottish Rural and Islands Parliament (SRIP), including the Rural and Islands Youth Parliament, makes, particularly in influencing future policy development; notes that the SRIP, which held its fifth gathering in November 2023, is unique in the UK; welcomes the opportunity that young people from rural Scotland now have to engage with the Scottish Ministers; recognises the value and importance of hearing the experience and ideas of young people who live and work in Scotland's rural and island communities to inform Scottish Government policy priorities and of ensuring that their voice is heard, and welcomes the involvement and commitment of youth and adult volunteer delegates who made both parliaments a success.

Rachael Hamilton moved amendment S6M-11896.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-11896 in the name of Mairi Gougeon (Scottish Rural and Islands Youth Parliament), insert at end ", and notes that the Scottish Rural and Islands Youth Parliament raised a number of issues affecting young people in rural Scotland, including the Scottish Government's lack of long-term commitment to the rural and island environment, the lack of mental health support for people in the Highlands and Islands, a transport system that is not fit for purpose and a housing sector that fails to meet the needs of the population."

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

Rhoda Grant moved amendment S6M-11896.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-11896 in the name of Mairi Gougeon (Scottish Rural and Islands Youth Parliament), insert at end "; considers that access to health services, homes and opportunities are essential to young people in rural and island areas; believes that young people who live in these areas are best placed to advise on what is needed, and urges the Scottish Government to address the issues highlighted and put in place a strategy and timeline to address them, as it is vital to halt depopulation and retain young people in rural areas."

After debate, the amendment was agreed to (DT).

The motion was agreed to (DT).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament acknowledges the important contribution that the Scottish Rural and Islands Parliament (SRIP), including the Rural and Islands Youth Parliament, makes, particularly in influencing future policy development; notes that the SRIP, which held its fifth gathering in November 2023, is unique in the UK; welcomes the opportunity that young people from rural Scotland now have to engage with the Scottish Ministers; recognises the value and importance of hearing the experience and ideas of young people who live and work in Scotland's rural and island communities to inform Scottish Government policy priorities and of ensuring that their voice is heard, and welcomes the involvement and commitment of youth and adult volunteer delegates who made both parliaments a success; considers that access to health services, homes and opportunities are essential to young people in rural and island areas; believes that young people who live in these areas are best placed to advise on what is needed, and urges the Scottish Government to address the issues highlighted and put in place a strategy and timeline to address them, as it is vital to halt depopulation and retain young people in rural areas.

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

The meeting closed at 5.08 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
18 January 2024

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

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 18 January 2024 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Renewables Obligation (Scotland) Amendment Order 2024 [draft]
laid under section 32L(3) of the Electricity Act 1989

Negative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 18 January 2024 and is subject to the negative procedure—

Official Controls (Import of High Risk Food and Feed of Non-Animal Origin)
Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2024 (SSI 2024/12)
laid under Article 57a(5) of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 and Article 144(5) of
Regulation (EU) 2017/625

Laid Only Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 18 January 2024 and is not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act
2024 (Commencement) Regulations 2024 (SSI 2024/13 (C. 2))
laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform
(Scotland) Act 2010

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