



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 3, No. 67, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 16 January 2024

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

**1. Time for Reflection:** Rev Linda Haggerstone, National Interfaith Officer, Scottish Pagan Federation, led Time for Reflection.

**2. Revision to Business Programme:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-11883—That the Parliament agrees to the following revisions to the programme of business for—

(a) Tuesday 16 January 2024—

after

*followed by* Topical Questions (if selected)

insert

*followed by* Ministerial Statement: Horizon IT Prosecutions

delete

5.00 pm Decision Time

and insert

5.10 pm Decision Time

(b) Thursday 18 January 2024—

after

2.30 pm Portfolio Questions: Transport, Net Zero and Just Transition

insert

*followed by* Ministerial Statement: New Safeguards in Relation to XL Bully Dogs

The motion was agreed to.

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

**4. Ministerial Statement:** The Lord Advocate (Rt Hon Dorothy Bain KC) made a statement and answered questions on Horizon IT Prosecutions.

**5. Visitor Levy (Scotland) Bill:** The Minister for Community Wealth and Public Finance (Tom Arthur) moved S6M-11871—That the Parliament agrees to the general principles of the Visitor Levy (Scotland) Bill.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 86, Against 30, Abstentions 0).

**6. Visitor Levy (Scotland) Bill: Financial Resolution:** The Minister for Community Wealth and Public Finance (Tom Arthur) moved S6M-11730—That the Parliament, for the purposes of any Act of the Scottish Parliament resulting from the Visitor Levy (Scotland) Bill, agrees to any tax imposed in consequence of the Act in relation to which Rule 9.12.3B(a) of the Parliament’s Standing Orders applies.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

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

**8. Languages at the University of Aberdeen:** The Parliament debated S6M-11589 in the name of Kevin Stewart—That the Parliament notes the concern expressed at proposals by the University of Aberdeen to reduce its language provision; understands the challenges that the languages department faces, including running a projected deficit of £1.6 million in 2023-24, and that the student intake has reportedly fallen dramatically following the UK’s exit from the EU; believes that languages offer significant value to individuals, to communities across Scotland, and to building relationships across the globe; recognises what it sees as the widespread support for retaining language teaching at the University of Aberdeen, including, it understands, from students, staff, alumni, Gaelic organisations and the consulates of several nations, and notes the calls for the University of Aberdeen to explore every possible option to retain language learning, including an expanded language offering for all interested students and degree courses.

The meeting closed at 6.45 pm.

**David McGill**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
16 January 2024

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

**Committee Reports**

The following reports were published on 16 January 2024—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 3rd Report, 2024 (Session 6):  
Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law  
Reform Committee on 16 January 2024 (SP Paper 506)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 4th Report, 2024 (Session 6):  
Delegated powers in the Budget (Scotland) (No.3) Bill at Stage 1 (SP Paper  
507)

**Subordinate Legislation**

**Negative Instruments**

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 12 January 2024 and is subject to the negative procedure—

Council Tax (Dwellings and Part Residential Subjects) (Scotland) Amendment  
Regulations 2024 (SSI 2024/10)  
laid under section 113(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992

**Other Documents**

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 12 January 2024 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**The Cost of Living (Tenant Protection) (Scotland) Act 2022: Report to the Scottish Parliament covering the period 1 October to 31 December 2023 (SG/2024/2)** laid under Section 9(9) of the Cost of Living (Tenant Protection) (Scotland) Act 2022

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