



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 3, No. 8, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 31 May 2023

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

**1. Portfolio Questions:** Questions on Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands, and then on NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.

**2. Let's Talk Education – The National Discussion:** The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills (Jenny Gilruth) moved S6M-09213—That the Parliament welcomes the publication of All Learners in Scotland Matter: Our National Discussion on Education; acknowledges the significant levels of engagement that the National Discussion generated, with events and discussions taking place in every part of Scotland, led by schools, community groups and third sector organisations, and reaching more than 38,000 people; thanks the independent academic facilitators, Prof Carol Campbell and Prof Alma Harris, for overseeing this work; supports the guiding values of the report to ensure that all learners in Scotland experience an education system that is ambitious, inclusive and supportive; recognises the diversity of all learners and endorses the vision, which will safeguard the learning and the life chances of all children and young people in Scotland, and agrees to work with the Scottish Government and COSLA to turn this vision into a reality for Scotland's children and young people, and the educators, parents and carers who support them.

Stephen Kerr moved amendment S6M-09213.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-09213 in the name of Jenny Gilruth (Let's Talk Education - The National Discussion), leave out from “, Prof” to end and

insert “and all those who participated; notes the report's conclusion that 'there is an overwhelming appetite for change' and urges the Scottish Government to view this as a call for urgent steps to ensure real reform; further notes the concerns raised in the national discussion over the lack of support and respect given to teachers and pupil support assistants, as well as the issues experienced by teachers, pupils, parents and carers in relation to young people with additional support needs and the need to ensure a better approach to play-based learning and early years; believes that a new deal for teachers would address issues in professional development and teacher recruitment; further believes that debates should be held on the level to which teachers and school leaders should be able to be more autonomous in their decision making, the presumption against specialist schooling for young people with additional support needs and the age at which children start formal schooling, and acknowledges the frustration, cynicism and anger at previous unmet promises of reform and the resultant doubts expressed in the report over whether genuine reform would take place.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 29, Against 90, Abstentions 0).

Pam Duncan-Glancy moved amendment S6M-09213.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-09213 in the name of Jenny Gilruth (Let's Talk Education - The National Discussion), insert at end “; recognises that the implementation of the existing Scottish Government commitment to increase non-contact time is necessary, and calls on the Scottish Government to reiterate this commitment and set out when it intends to fulfil it.”

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

The motion, as amended, was agreed to (DT).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament welcomes the publication of *All Learners in Scotland Matter: Our National Discussion on Education*; acknowledges the significant levels of engagement that the National Discussion generated, with events and discussions taking place in every part of Scotland, led by schools, community groups and third sector organisations, and reaching more than 38,000 people; thanks the independent academic facilitators, Prof Carol Campbell and Prof Alma Harris, for overseeing this work; supports the guiding values of the report to ensure that all learners in Scotland experience an education system that is ambitious, inclusive and supportive; recognises the diversity of all learners and endorses the vision, which will safeguard the learning and the life chances of all children and young people in Scotland; agrees to work with the Scottish Government and COSLA to turn this vision into a reality for Scotland's children and young people, and the educators, parents and carers who support them; recognises that the implementation of the existing Scottish Government commitment to increase non-contact time is necessary, and calls on the Scottish Government to reiterate this commitment and set out when it intends to fulfil it.

**3. Urgent Question:** An urgent question, to ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to reduce the risk of wildfire in Scotland, in light of reports that an ongoing wildfire in Cannich is estimated to become the largest by area on record and that two firefighters were injured while responding to the blaze, was answered by the Minister for Victims and Community Safety (Siobhian Brown).

**4. Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme:** Jackson Carlaw, on behalf of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body, moved S6M-09249—That the Parliament, in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 81(2), 81(5)(b) and 83(5) of the Scotland Act 1998, determines that the Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme, which was agreed to by resolution of the Parliament on 2 March 2021, be amended to—

(a) insert, in paragraph 1.2.4, after “considers appropriate.” and before “Such increases”—

“Any such uprating shall also be applied to the limit on the amount by which Members may vary their office cost and engagement provisions up or down subject to the overall agreed combined annual limit, as set out in paragraph 4.3.1 and 5.1.3.”

(b) insert, in the second sentence of paragraph 4.3.1 after “financial year,” and before “subject to—

“or by such sum as determined following the uprating of the variation limit applied under paragraph 1.2.4,”

(c) insert, in the second sentence of paragraph 5.1.3 after “financial year,” and before “subject to—

“or by such sum as determined following the uprating of the variation limit applied under paragraph 1.2.4,”.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**5. Business Programme:** The Minister for Cabinet and Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-09251—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 6 June 2023

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Topical Questions (if selected)

*followed by* Scottish Government Debate: Active Travel Transformation

*followed by* Appointment of Board Members to Environmental Standards Scotland

*followed by* Committee Announcements

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Wednesday 7 June 2023

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Constitution, External Affairs and Culture; Justice and Home Affairs

*followed by* Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party Business

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Approval of SSIs (if required)

5.10 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Thursday 8 June 2023

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

*followed by* Members' Business

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Education and Skills

*followed by* Scottish Government Debate: Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill - UK Legislation

*followed by* Public Audit Committee Debate: New Vessels for the Clyde and the Hebrides - Arrangements to Deliver Vessels 801 and 802

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 13 June 2023

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Education, Children and Young People Committee Debate: College Regionalisation

*followed by* Committee Announcements

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Wednesday 14 June 2023

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy; Finance and Parliamentary Business

*followed by* Scottish Labour Party Business

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Approval of SSIs (if required)

5.10 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Thursday 15 June 2023

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

*followed by* Members' Business

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body Questions

2.15 pm Portfolio Questions: Net Zero and Just Transition

*followed by* Ministerial Statement: Provisional Outturn

*followed by* Debate on the Scottish Parliament's Gender Sensitive Audit

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

(b) that, for the purposes of Portfolio Questions in the week beginning 5 June 2023, in rule 13.7.3, after the word “except” the words “to the extent to which the Presiding Officer considers that the questions are on the same or similar subject matter or” are inserted.

The motion was agreed to.

**6. Designation of Lead Committee:** The Minister for Cabinet and Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-09252—That the Parliament agrees that the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the supplementary legislative consent memorandum on the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**7. Designation of Lead Committee:** The Minister for Cabinet and Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-09253—That the Parliament agrees that the Economy and Fair Work Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the legislative consent memorandum on the Data Protection and Digital Information (No. 2) Bill.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**8. Designation of Lead Committee:** The Minister for Cabinet and Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-09254—That the Parliament agrees that the Economy and Fair Work Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the legislative consent memorandum on the Electronic Trade Documents Bill.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**9. Decision Time:** The Parliament took decisions on items 2, 4, 6, 7 and 8 as noted above.

**10. Dewars Centre in Perth:** The Parliament debated S6M-08199 in the name of Murdo Fraser—That the Parliament notes the concerns raised by Scottish Curling

that the potential closure of the Dewars Centre, in Perth, would be the death knell of a legacy of curling in Perthshire dating back decades; notes the belief that, if this proposal goes ahead, it would mean that the town and county with which curling is most closely associated has made a choice to de-prioritise the success of legends such as Rhona Howie, Eve Muirhead, David Murdoch and numerous others, all of whom have a strong connection between Perth and the Dewars Centre and their Olympic and World Championships successes; further notes that the Dewars Centre has a history of supporting grassroots curling, and the potential to enable critical growth and to play a central role in tackling isolation, reducing barriers to inequality, and ensuring that inclusion and a sense of community are at the heart of sport in Perth, and notes the calls for Live Active Leisure and Perth and Kinross Council to reach a decision that would enable the Dewars Centre to be retained.

The meeting closed at 6.02 pm.

**David McGill**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
31 May 2023

## **Appendix**

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

### **Committee Reports**

The following report was published on 31 May 2023—

Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee, 4th Report, 2023  
(Session 6): Annual Report of the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice  
Committee (SP Paper 381)

### **Other Documents**

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 31 May 2023 and are  
not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**Early learning and childcare: Progress on delivery of the 1,140 hours  
expansion (AGS/2023/4)** laid under the Public Finance and Accountability  
(Scotland) Act 2000

**Scottish Law Commission: Eleventh Programme of Law Reform (SG/2023/96)**  
laid under Section 3(2) of the Law Commissions Act 1965



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