



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 3, No. 42, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 2 November 2023

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

The meeting opened at 11.40 am.

**1. General Questions:** Questions were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.

**2. First Minister's Questions:** Questions were answered by the First Minister (Humza Yousaf).

**3. Nuclear-weapon-free Europe:** The Parliament debated S6M-10712 in the name of Bill Kidd—That the Parliament welcomes what it sees as the continuing progress being made towards implementing the aims of the United Nations Agenda for Disarmament, as outlined in the 2018 document, *Securing Our Common Future*, and in particular towards the establishment of more nuclear-weapon-free zones (NWFZs), which were reportedly described by the UN Secretary-General as “landmark instruments that represent an excellent example of the synergy between regional and global efforts towards a world free of nuclear weapons”; recognises the work of the Secretary-General and the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs in their efforts with UN member states to strengthen and consolidate NWFZs, including, it understands, by facilitating enhanced cooperation and consultation between existing zones, encouraging nuclear weapon states to adhere to the relevant protocols to the treaties establishing such zones, and supporting the further establishment of such zones, including in the Middle East; understands that the process of establishing NWFZs is a complex, difficult endeavour, but, despite this, considers that examples such as the ongoing progress in exploring the establishment of a NWFZ through the work of the Middle East Treaty Organisation (METO) and others demonstrates that anything is possible; applauds the work of

METO and everyone working for a nuclear-weapon-free world, including the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND) and the Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND); understands that, through the endeavours of such organisations, including those operating in Glasgow, it is estimated that 39% of the world's population, 56% of the Earth's land area and 60% of its countries are currently within NWFZs; notes the expression of regret that the establishment of a NWFZ across the European continent has not yet been possible, and further notes the belief that the time to comprehensively explore the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free Europe is now, in order to see what is possible and how it is possible, and to make it possible.

**4. Motion Without Notice:** Bill Kidd moved without notice that, under Rule 8.14.3, the debate be extended by up to 30 minutes.

The motion was agreed to.

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

**6. Ministerial Statement:** The Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero and Just Transition (Màiri McAllan) made a statement and answered questions on The Edinburgh Tram Inquiry Report.

**7. Early Childhood Development Transformational Change programme:** The Minister for Public Health and Women's Health (Jenni Minto) moved S6M-11053— That the Parliament recognises the need for an Early Child Development Transformational Change programme to build on the excellent and world-leading practice already delivered in Scotland, and to further act on the unique and critical period of child development from pre-pregnancy to age three, when experiences and the environment shape the foundations for life and population health, including physical and mental health and wellbeing, life expectancy, educational attainment and participation in the economy and community; is committed to focussing collective efforts on giving all babies and children in Scotland the best possible start by making sure that the Scottish Government applies the latest evidence and continues to invest in and improve its existing policies, to ensure that it is “getting it right for every child”; considers that it can build on the targeted investments that it has already made in support of families pre-birth to three and that joint working can create a culture, environment, economy and society that prioritises and enhances early child development, to realise its ambition of creating a more healthy, fair and equal society; notes the negative impact that the UK Government austerity measures and policies such as the two-child benefit cap continue to have on child development, and welcomes Scottish Government interventions, including the Baby Box and the Scottish Child Payment, to give children the best possible start in life.

Roz McCall moved amendment S6M-11053.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-11053 in the name of Jenni Minto (Early Childhood Development Transformational Change Programme), leave out from “the need” to end and insert “that work must be done to act on the unique and

critical period of child development from pre-pregnancy to age three, when experiences and the environment shape the foundations for life and population health, including physical and mental health and wellbeing, life expectancy, educational attainment and participation in the economy and community; is committed to focussing collective efforts on giving all babies and children in Scotland the best possible start; regrets, however, that it cannot welcome an Early Child Development Transformational Change programme without the detail of what this programme entails; believes that there must be a new Early Years Framework, which was last updated in 2009; notes that, under the Scottish National Party administration, Scotland does not have an excellent and world-leading practice; understands that the Scottish Government has downgraded neonatal services across Scotland and is failing to support children and families pre-birth; acknowledges that the childminding workforce has declined by a third since 2016 and that an Audit Scotland report concluded that the early years and childcare sector is fragile due to budget pressures and risks around workforce sustainability; recognises the mental health crisis among children and young people, which can lead to significant problems later in life; is concerned that the Scottish Government failed to meet its target to clear Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) waiting lists, and calls on the Scottish Government to meet its target for 90% of children and young people to start treatment within 18 weeks, which it has never done before.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 30, Against 86, Abstentions 0).

Martin Whitfield spoke to amendment S6M-11053.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-11053 in the name of Jenni Minto (Early Childhood Development Transformational Change Programme), insert at end “; believes that the Scottish Government is not yet routinely collecting the right evidence to do this; is concerned that flexible provision in the early years sector is not routinely available and that the private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sector is struggling; notes the negative impact that many of the UK and Scottish governments’ decisions continue to have on child development, and believes that it is crucial to create a culture, environment, economy and society that prioritise and enhance early child development and spread opportunity for all.”

The amendment was not moved.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 63, Against 51, Abstentions 0).

**8. Appointments of the Chair and Commissioners of the Poverty and Inequality Commission:** The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice (Shirley-Anne Somerville) moved S6M-11054—That the Parliament notes the Social Justice and Social Security Committee’s consideration and recommendation of three short-term appointments to the Poverty and Inequality Commission at its meeting on 5 October 2023, and, in accordance with the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017, approves the appointments by the Scottish Ministers of Professor Stephen Sinclair as Chair of the

Poverty and Inequality Commission, for the period from 12 November 2023 to 30 June 2024, and Tressa Burke and Professor Suzanne Fitzpatrick as Commissioners to the Poverty and Inequality Commission, for the period from 11 November 2023 to 30 June 2024.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**9. Motion Without Notice:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved without notice that, under Rule 11.2.4, Decision Time be brought forward to 4.55 pm.

The motion was agreed to.

**10. Decision Time:** The Parliament took decisions on items 7 and 8 as noted above.

The meeting closed at 5.03 pm.

**David McGill**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
2 November 2023

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

**Committee Reports**

The following reports were published on 2 November 2023—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 64th Report, 2023 (Session 6): Delegated powers in the Circular Economy (Scotland) Bill at Stage 1 (SP Paper 461)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 65th Report, 2023 (Session 6): Delegated powers in the Welfare of Dogs (Scotland) Bill at Stage 1 (SP Paper 462)

**Subordinate Legislation**

**Negative Instruments**

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 2 November 2023 and are subject to the negative procedure—

Common Organisation of the Markets in Agricultural Products (Fruit and Vegetables) (Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 (SSI 2023/311)  
laid under Section 7(4) of the Agriculture (Retained EU Law and Data) (Scotland) Act 2020

Animal Welfare and Food Safety (International Professional Qualification Recognition Agreement Implementation) (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 (SSI 2023/312)  
laid under section 18(2) of the Professional Qualifications Act 2022 and section 48(2) of the Food Safety Act 1990

**Laid Only Instruments**

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 2 November 2023 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Continuity) (Scotland) Act 2021 (Commencement No. 3) Regulations 2023 (SSI 2023/310 (C.22))  
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 2 November 2023 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**Sometimes I feel like I am in prison”: Placing Children in Hotel-Type Accommodation (CCYP/20232/03)** laid under section 12 of the Commissioner for Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2003



---

---

Published by the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body

---

All documents are available on  
the Scottish Parliament website at:

[www.parliament.scot/documents](http://www.parliament.scot/documents)

For information on the Scottish Parliament contact  
Public Information on:

Telephone: 0131 348 5000 or 0800 092 7500

Email: [sp.info@parliament.scot](mailto:sp.info@parliament.scot)

Live chat on [parliament.scot](http://parliament.scot)

You can write to us in any language or contact us  
using the Text Relay service or in British Sign

Language through [contactScotland-BSL](http://contactScotland-BSL).

---

---

© Parliamentary copyright. Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body

The Scottish Parliament's copyright policy can be found on the website -  
[www.parliament.scot](http://www.parliament.scot) or by contacting Public Information