



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 3, No. 70, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 23 January 2024

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Time for Reflection: Ben Kean and Mia Williams, Ambassadors, Holocaust Educational Trust, led Time for Reflection.

2. Topical Questions: Questions were answered by the Deputy First Minister and Ministers.

3. Celebrating and Supporting Breastfeeding in Scotland: The Minister for Public Health and Women's Health (Jenni Minto) moved S6M-11935—That the Parliament welcomes that, across Scotland, breastfeeding rates have risen and that inequalities in breastfeeding rates have reduced in the past few years, in line with additional funding provided by the Scottish Government of over £9 million; notes that there continues to be a need for a cross-sectoral approach to support, promote and protect breastfeeding; agrees that mothers' experiences should be continuously improved and supported through evidence-based practice; recognises that parents should be free to feed their babies where and when they need to, including in public spaces, and be supported to do this through businesses embracing the national Breastfeeding Friendly Scotland scheme; agrees that Scotland should continue to embed the UNICEF UK Baby Friendly Initiative across its maternal, neonatal and community settings, throughout the NHS and core nursing and maternity education curriculum; further agrees that infant feeding services should be recognised as a vital service and integral to optimising infant feeding support across the NHS and its partners; recognises that third sector and voluntary peer support remain pivotal to babies being breastfed in the first few weeks of life and beyond, and agrees that

breastfeeding has a role in supporting the economy, and gives all children the best possible start in life.

Tess White moved amendment S6M-11935.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-11935 in the name of Jenni Minto (Celebrating and Supporting Breastfeeding in Scotland), insert at the end "; recognises the benefits of breastfeeding to both the child and the mother, as well as the challenges that mothers can face as they try to establish breastfeeding, and acknowledges the importance of ensuring that midwifery is sufficiently staffed to support postnatal care and infant feeding as well as acute care."

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

Carol Mochan moved amendment S6M-11935.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-11935 in the name of Jenni Minto (Celebrating and Supporting Breastfeeding in Scotland), insert at end "; is concerned by reports that health visits for mothers and babies are being reduced due to staffing pressures, and calls on the Scottish Government to guarantee that every family is able to fully access the Universal Health Visiting Pathway, which consists of 11 home visits to all families, including eight within the first year of life and three Child Health Reviews between 13 months and four to five years."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 52, Against 61, Abstentions 1).

The motion was agreed to (DT).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved that—

That the Parliament welcomes that, across Scotland, breastfeeding rates have risen and that inequalities in breastfeeding rates have reduced in the past few years, in line with additional funding provided by the Scottish Government of over £9 million; notes that there continues to be a need for a cross-sectoral approach to support, promote and protect breastfeeding; agrees that mothers' experiences should be continuously improved and supported through evidence-based practice; recognises that parents should be free to feed their babies where and when they need to, including in public spaces, and be supported to do this through businesses embracing the national Breastfeeding Friendly Scotland scheme; agrees that Scotland should continue to embed the UNICEF UK Baby Friendly Initiative across its maternal, neonatal and community settings, throughout the NHS and core nursing and maternity education curriculum; further agrees that infant feeding services should be recognised as a vital service and integral to optimising infant feeding support across the NHS and its partners; recognises that third sector and voluntary peer support remain pivotal to babies being breastfed in the first few weeks of life and beyond; agrees that breastfeeding has a role in supporting the economy, and gives all children the best possible start in life; recognises the benefits of

breastfeeding to both the child and the mother, as well as the challenges that mothers can face as they try to establish breastfeeding, and acknowledges the importance of ensuring that midwifery is sufficiently staffed to support postnatal care and infant feeding as well as acute care.

4. 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 4.54 pm.

5. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on item 3 as noted above.

7. The Role of the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly: The Parliament debated S6M-11415 in the name of Emma Harper—That the Parliament welcomes what it sees as the contribution of the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly (BIPA) to enhancing government scrutiny, and in bringing together members of UK and Irish legislatures to discuss, debate and report on a wide range of policy areas facing society across all of the BIPA constituent areas, namely Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Northern Ireland, England, Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man; understands that BIPA, established in 1990, has a core mission to promote co-operation between political representatives in Britain and Ireland for the benefit of the people who elect its members from all of the legislatures represented, while building on the close relationships established in recent years between politicians throughout Britain and Ireland; further understands that BIPA members engage in a wide range of non-legislative parliamentary activities through biannual plenary meetings and ongoing committee work, and that it consists of five committees, which are Committee A (Sovereign Matters), Committee B (European Affairs), Committee C (Economic), Committee D (Environmental and Social), and a Steering Committee, which brings together and links the work of the various BIPA committees; notes that BIPA plenaries alternate between the BIPA regions and serve to debate topical issues and committee reports, and include a question period with a senior minister from the host country; understands that there are many reports that BIPA has produced for consideration by UK and Irish legislatures, including recommendations on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), renewable energy, the transfer of prisoners, cross-border policing, the Good Friday Agreement, healthcare access and post-Brexit trade; believes that BIPA plays an important role in listening to evidence from individuals, business and wider society, including from the South Scotland region, to help inform government policy and foster relationships with elected members across the BIPA legislatures; wishes BIPA a long and successful future, and encourages everyone to look at the considered reports that are available on the BIPA website, britishirish.org.

The meeting closed at 5.56 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
23 January 2024

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

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 23 January 2024—

Economy and Fair Work Committee, 1st Report, 2024 (Session 6): Stage 1 Report on the Bankruptcy and Diligence (Scotland) Bill on 23 January 2024 (SP Paper 508)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 5th Report, 2024 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 23 January 2024 (SP Paper 509)

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 19 January 2024 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Land and Buildings Transaction Tax (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Order 2024 [draft]
laid under section 68(2) of the Land and Buildings Transaction Tax (Scotland) Act 2013

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 19 January 2024 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Second Annual Statement Under Section 2(8) and 2(9) of the Forensic Medical Services (Victims Of Sexual Offences) (Scotland) Act 2021 (SG/2024/1) laid under Section 2(8) of the Forensic Medical Services (Victims of Sexual Offences) (Scotland) Act 2021

Scrutiny report on draft Regulations: the Social Security (Up-rating) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2024 (SCoSS/2024/01) laid under sections 22 and 97 of the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 23 January 2024 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Spending trends in the 2024-25 Scottish Budget (SFC/2024/1) laid under section 5(3) of the Scottish Fiscal Commission Act 2016

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