



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 3, No. 92, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 20 March 2024

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Constitution, External Affairs and Culture and then Justice and Home Affairs were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and Ministers.

2. Circular Economy (Scotland) Bill: The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity (Lorna Slater) moved S6M-12552—That the Parliament agrees to the general principles of the Circular Economy (Scotland) Bill.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

3. Circular Economy (Scotland) Bill: Financial Resolution: The Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance (Shona Robison) moved S6M-12386—That the Parliament, for the purposes of any Act of the Scottish Parliament resulting from the Circular Economy (Scotland) Bill, agrees to—

(a) any expenditure of a kind referred to in Rule 9.12.3A of the Parliament's Standing Orders arising in consequence of the Act, and

(b) any charge or payment in relation to which Rule 9.12.4 of the Parliament's Standing Orders applies arising in consequence of the Act.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

4. Economic Activity of Public Bodies (Overseas Matters) Bill - UK Legislation: The Minister for Community Wealth and Public Finance (Tom Arthur) moved S6M-12551—That the Parliament notes the legislative consent memorandum lodged by the Scottish Government on 19 July 2023; agrees not to give consent to the Economic Activity of Public Bodies (Overseas Matters) Bill; believes that the Bill would represent a wholly unnecessary and unwelcome limitation of the Scottish Ministers' executive competence, and would act to stifle democracy, and calls on the UK Government to amend the Bill to remove the Scottish Ministers from its scope.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 88, Against 27, Abstentions 0).

5. Urgent Question: An urgent question, to ask the Scottish Government what its response is to the Climate Change Committee stating that the scale of reductions in emissions needed for Scotland to meet its 2030 climate change targets is “beyond what is credible”, was answered by the Cabinet Secretary for Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Net Zero and Energy (Mairi McAllan).

6. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-12566—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 26 March 2024

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Gender Representation on Public Boards (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Widening Access - Equality of Access to Higher Education

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 27 March 2024

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Wellbeing Economy, Net Zero and Energy; Finance and Parliamentary Business

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Agriculture and Rural Communities (Scotland) Bill

followed by Financial Resolution: Agriculture and Rural Communities (Scotland) Bill

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Approval of SSIs (if required)

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 28 March 2024

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

followed by Members' Business

2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.30 pm Portfolio Questions: Transport

followed by Scottish Government Debate: The Future of Public Transport - The Fair Fares Review

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 16 April 2024

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Scottish Government Business

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 17 April 2024

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands; NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care

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 18 April 2024

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

followed by Members' Business

2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.30 pm Portfolio Questions: Social Justice

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Scottish Employment Injuries Advisory Council Bill

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 25 March 2024, 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.

7. Stage 1 Timetable: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-12567—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Scottish Languages Bill at stage 1 be completed by 20 September 2024.

The motion was agreed to.

8. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-12568—That the Parliament agrees that the Budget (Scotland) Act 2023 Amendment Regulations 2024 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

9. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-12569—That the Parliament agrees that the National Bus Travel Concession Schemes (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Order 2024 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

10. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-12570—That the Parliament agrees that the Social Security (Up-rating) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2024 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

11. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-12571—That the Parliament agrees that the Social Security Up-rating (Scotland) Order 2024 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

12. Committee Meeting Times: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-12572—That the Parliament agrees that, under Rule 12.3.3B of Standing Orders, the Public Audit Committee can meet, if necessary, at the same time as a meeting of the Parliament between 11.40 am and 12.00 pm on Thursday 21 March 2024.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

13. Designation of Lead Committee: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-12573—That the Parliament agrees that the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the Land Reform (Scotland) Bill at stage 1.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

14. 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 5.39 pm.

The motion was agreed to.

15. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 as noted above.

16. The Economic Contribution of the Third Sector in Scotland: The Parliament debated S6M-11864 in the name of Kate Forbes—That the Parliament celebrates the third sector in Scotland, which includes charities, community and voluntary groups and other non-profit distributing organisations, including those in the Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch constituency; understands that the third sector primarily provides services that are important in reducing inequality and disadvantage, and in improving health, wellbeing and community cohesion; believes that there is an important relationship between the third sector, the private sector and the public sector; welcomes the publication of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) advice paper on 13 December 2023, titled The economic contribution of the third sector in Scotland, which identifies that the sector is "often overlooked as a source of wealth generation and seldom included in national or local growth strategies",

leading to missed opportunities to enhance regional and national economies; considers that the RSE's report highlights the substantive economic contribution of the sector, whilst identifying the barriers to a wider recognition of the third sector's economic contribution; notes the belief that overcoming such barriers to the third sector's recognition in the Scottish Government's economic strategy is of increasing importance in the context of the financial and funding challenges currently facing the sector, and notes the RSE's call to stimulate debate on how these blocks might be overcome.

The meeting closed at 6.31 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
20 March 2024

Appendix

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

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 20 March 2024 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Annual Report on the operation of the UK Internal Market 2023-2024

(OIM/2024/01) laid under section 33(5) of the United Kingdom Internal Market Act 2020

Climate Change Committee: Progress in reducing emissions in Scotland 2023 Report to Parliament (SG/2024/43)

laid at the request of a member of the Scottish Government and not under any laying power

Scottish Public Services Ombudsman: Compendium of Case Reports for March 2024 (SPSO/2024/03)

laid under Sections 15(1) and 15(1A) of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002

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