



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 3, No. 49, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 21 November 2023

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

- 1. Time for Reflection:** Dame Evelyn Glennie, led Time for Reflection.
- 2. Topical Questions:** Questions were answered by Ministers.
- 3. Ministerial Statement:** The Cabinet Secretary for Finance (Shona Robison) made a statement and answered questions on Autumn Statement: Scottish Government Priorities.
- 4. The Situation in the Middle East:** The First Minister (Humza Yousaf) moved S6M-11342—That the Parliament unequivocally condemns in the strongest possible terms Hamas's barbaric and unjustifiable terrorist attacks against Israeli citizens on 7 October 2023, and demands the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages; agrees that all human life is equal, abhors the loss of innocent lives, and affirms the right of all Israelis and Palestinians to live in peace and security; further agrees that the killing of innocent civilians in Gaza, including women and children who have been besieged by Israeli forces, must stop; associates itself with the United Nations Secretary-General's statements that there must be an immediate humanitarian ceasefire to allow civilians to escape harm, for hostages to be released, for humanitarian aid to reach those in need, and affirming that international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions, must be upheld; reiterates its solidarity with Scotland's Jewish, Muslim and Palestinian communities and condemns antisemitism, Islamophobia or any other form of hatred; welcomes the Scottish Government's contribution of £750,000 towards the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East's flash appeal for Gaza,

and the humanitarian assistance announced by the UK Government; reaffirms that a credible, lasting and sustainable peace can only be based on the two-state solution through reinvigorated diplomatic and political efforts in the Middle East Peace Process, and agrees with many in the international community that all parties must agree to an immediate ceasefire.

Donald Cameron moved amendment S6M-11342.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-11342 in the name of Humza Yousaf (The Situation in the Middle East), leave out from “further agrees” to end and insert “believes in Israel's right to defend itself against terror; supports calls for humanitarian pauses to deliver aid to Gaza safely and in a sustained way; welcomes the UK Government's increased aid contribution of £30 million to Gaza as well as the Scottish Government's aid contribution of £750,000; reiterates its solidarity with Scotland's Jewish, Muslim, Israeli and Palestinian communities and condemns antisemitism, Islamophobia or any other form of hatred, and reaffirms that a credible, lasting and sustainable peace can only be based on the two-state solution through reinvigorated diplomatic and political efforts in the Middle East Peace Process.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 28, Against 89, Abstentions 0).

Anas Sarwar moved amendment S6M-11342.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-11342 in the name of Humza Yousaf (The Situation in the Middle East), insert at end “; recognises that, in order for any ceasefire to work, it requires all sides to comply; is horrified by the Hamas statement that it would repeat the 7 October attacks and continue rocket fire; regrets that Benjamin Netanyahu has stated that he will not even consider a ceasefire; calls, therefore, on the international community to use every form of diplomacy to try and create the conditions on the ground to make a ceasefire a reality; further calls on the International Criminal Court to investigate the conduct of all parties in this conflict, and reaffirms the commitment to a lasting peace and a two-state solution with the end of illegal occupation, siege and settlements.”

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 91, Against 28, Abstentions 0).

Alex Cole-Hamilton spoke to amendment S6M-11342.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-11342 in the name of Humza Yousaf (The Situation in the Middle East), insert at end “; believes that Hamas cannot be allowed to continue in charge of Gaza; further believes that it is increasingly clear that there will be no military solution that eliminates Hamas and that movement towards a political solution is needed, and urges the UK Government to lead calls for an immediate bilateral ceasefire to provide space to facilitate the delivery of aid, facilitate the release of hostages and

commence intensive diplomacy in pursuit of a political solution, with Hamas removed from Gaza, two states and lasting peace.”

The amendment was not moved.

The motion, as amended, was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 90, Against 28, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament unequivocally condemns in the strongest possible terms Hamas’s barbaric and unjustifiable terrorist attacks against Israeli citizens on 7 October 2023, and demands the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages; agrees that all human life is equal, abhors the loss of innocent lives, and affirms the right of all Israelis and Palestinians to live in peace and security; further agrees that the killing of innocent civilians in Gaza, including women and children who have been besieged by Israeli forces, must stop; associates itself with the United Nations Secretary-General’s statements that there must be an immediate humanitarian ceasefire to allow civilians to escape harm, for hostages to be released, for humanitarian aid to reach those in need, and affirming that international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions, must be upheld; reiterates its solidarity with Scotland’s Jewish, Muslim and Palestinian communities and condemns antisemitism, Islamophobia or any other form of hatred; welcomes the Scottish Government’s contribution of £750,000 towards the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East’s flash appeal for Gaza, and the humanitarian assistance announced by the UK Government; reaffirms that a credible, lasting and sustainable peace can only be based on the two-state solution through reinvigorated diplomatic and political efforts in the Middle East Peace Process; agrees with many in the international community that all parties must agree to an immediate ceasefire; recognises that, in order for any ceasefire to work, it requires all sides to comply; is horrified by the Hamas statement that it would repeat the 7 October attacks and continue rocket fire; regrets that Benjamin Netanyahu has stated that he will not even consider a ceasefire; calls, therefore, on the international community to use every form of diplomacy to try and create the conditions on the ground to make a ceasefire a reality; further calls on the International Criminal Court to investigate the conduct of all parties in this conflict, and reaffirms the commitment to a lasting peace and a two-state solution with the end of illegal occupation, siege and settlements.

5. Decision Time: The Parliament took a decision on item 4 as noted above.

The meeting closed at 5.45 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
21 November 2023

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 17 November 2023—

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee, 17th Report, 2023 (Session 6):
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee report on The Heat Networks
(Heat Network Supply Target) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 [draft] (SP Paper
470)

The following report was published on 20 November 2023—

Finance and Public Administration Committee, 9th Report, 2023 (Session 6):
Subordinate Legislation: The Budget (Scotland) Act 2023 Amendment
Regulations 2023 [draft] (SP Paper 474)

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 20 November 2023 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Wine (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2024 [draft]
laid under section 9(4) of the Agriculture (Retained EU Law and Data)
(Scotland) Act 2020

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 17 November 2023 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Ayrshire and Arran Health Board Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (SG/2023/206) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Borders Health Board Annual Report and Accounts 2022-23 (SG/2023/207) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Dumfries and Galloway NHS Board Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (SG/2023/208) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

NHS Fife Annual report and consolidated accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (SG/2023/209) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA)'s Annual Report and Accounts 2022-23 (SG/2023/229) laid under section 11(3) of the Education (Scotland) Act 1996 & section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 20 November 2023 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Civil Service Commission Annual Report and Accounts 2022/23 (SG/2023/243) laid under paragraph 16 schedule 1 and paragraph 17 schedule 1 of the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010

Grampian Health Board Annual Report and Accounts Year Ended 31 March 2023 (SG/2023/211) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Annual Report and Consolidated Accounts For the Year Ended 31 March 2023 (SG/2023/212) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Highland Health Board Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (SG/2023/213) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

NHS Lanarkshire Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (SG/2023/214) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

NHS Lothian Annual Report and Accounts Year ended 31st March 2023 (SG/2023/215) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 21 November 2023 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Climate Change Committee Independent Assessment: Adapting to climate change - Progress in Scotland (SG/2023/287) laid under Section 55(4) Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

National Waiting Times Centre Board Annual Report and Consolidated Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2023 (SG/2023/220) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

NHS Orkney Annual Report and Accounts For Year Ended 31 March 2023 (SG/2023/216) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

NHS Shetland Annual Report and Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2023 (SG/2023/217) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Tayside Health Board Annual Report and Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2023 (SG/2023/218) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

NHS Western Isles Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (SG/2023/219) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

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