



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 3, No. 97, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 16 April 2024

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

**1. Time for Reflection:** Fr Roger Dawson SJ, Superior of the Jesuits in Scotland, led Time for Reflection.

**2. Revision to Business Programme:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-12864—That the Parliament agrees to the following revisions to the programme of business for—

(a) Tuesday 16 April 2024—

after

*followed by* Topical Questions (if selected)

insert

*followed by* Ministerial Statement: Implementation of the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021

delete

5.00 pm Decision Time

and insert

5.30 pm Decision Time

(b) Thursday 18 April 2024—

delete

2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.30 pm Portfolio Questions: Social Justice

and insert

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Social Justice

*followed by* Ministerial Statement: Climate Change Committee Scotland Report: Next Steps

Meghan Gallacher moved amendment 12864.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-12864 in the name of George Adam (Revision to Business Programme), after "*followed by* Ministerial Statement: Climate Change Committee Scotland Report: Next Steps" insert—

*"followed by* Ministerial Statement: Scottish Government Response to the Cass Review

delete

5.00 pm Decision Time

and insert

5.30 pm Decision Time".

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to (by division: For 49, Against 55, Abstentions 0).

The motion was agreed to.

**3. Topical Questions:** Questions were answered by a Minister.

**4. Ministerial Statement:** The Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs (Angela Constance) made a statement and answered questions on Implementation of the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021.

**5. Scotland's International Culture Strategy:** The Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture (Angus Robertson) moved S6M-12845— That the Parliament welcomes the publication on 28 March 2024 of Inspiring

Connections: Scotland's International Culture Strategy; recognises the central importance of international engagement, collaboration and exchange to Scotland's culture and creative sector, cultural innovation and financial health; further recognises that the impacts of Brexit and inflation pressures driven by UK Government decisions have had a detrimental impact on the sector's international activity; acknowledges that COVID-19 has also exacerbated these impacts; notes the strong starting position for this strategy, with Scotland's culture and creative sector's global reputation and existing connections; further notes that this strategy recognises the challenges posed by the importance of international cultural activity and the need to achieve net zero by 2045; recognises the role that the culture and creative sector can play in addressing Scotland's role in colonialism and slavery, and agrees that this strategic approach to supporting international connections can play an important role in the sector's long-term development.

Meghan Gallacher moved amendment S6M-12845.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-12845 in the name of Angus Robertson (Scotland's International Culture Strategy), leave out from "welcomes" to end and insert "believes that Scotland's culture is among the most vibrant in the world and should be promoted internationally; recognises that some of the points in the International Culture Strategy can help to promote Scotland's culture overseas, but that the document provides another forum for the Scottish Government to promote independence and grievance-mongering; further recognises that local tourism and cultural services have not reopened or are being forced to close, and compels the Scottish Government to dedicate more time to restoring Scotland's cultural sector."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 29, Against 70, Abstentions 19).

Neil Bibby moved amendment S6M-12845.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-12845 in the name of Angus Robertson (Scotland's International Culture Strategy), insert at end "; recognises the urgent need for a touring agreement with the EU to ease the regulatory burden on internationally touring artists and musicians; notes the significant concerns of the culture sector at the closure of and threats to a variety of festivals across Scotland due to a lack of funding; believes that Scotland's festivals are an integral part of both domestic and international culture strategy, and calls on the Scottish Government to convene an urgent summit with the culture sector to discuss how to protect and support Scotland's festivals with sustainable and predictable funding as part of its commitment to more than double culture funding over the next five years."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 23, Against 93, Abstentions 1).

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 66, Against 29, Abstentions 23).

**6. Automated Vehicles Bill - UK Legislation:** The Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity (Jim Fairlie) moved S6M-12834—That the Parliament agrees that the relevant provisions in Part 1, Chapter 6, clause 40, Part 2, Chapter 1, clauses 46 to 49 and 51, Part 5, clauses 82 to 85, 87 to 90 and Schedule 6 of the Automated Vehicles Bill, introduced in the House of Lords on 8 November 2023 and subsequently amended, so far as these matters fall within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament or alter the executive competence of the Scottish Ministers, should be considered by the UK Parliament.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**7. Committee Meeting Times:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-12865—That the Parliament agrees that, under Rule 12.3.3B of Standing Orders, the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee can meet, if necessary, at the same time as a meeting of the Parliament between 2.00 pm and 5.00 pm on Thursday 18 April 2024.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**8. Motion without Notice:** The Minister for Cabinet and 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 5.25pm.

The motion was agreed to.

**9. Decision Time:** The Parliament took decisions on items 5, 6 and 7 as noted above.

**10. Putting Langholm on the Map:** The Parliament debated S6M-12617 in the name of Oliver Mundell— That the Parliament recognises what it sees as the outstanding efforts of local campaigners in the Muckle Toon to ensure that Langholm is not forgotten when it comes to vital road signage on the trunk road and motorway network; celebrates what it considers the passion and dedication of many local individuals and organisations who work tirelessly to raise the profile of Langholm; understands that it has an extremely proud history and many claims to fame, including its Common Riding, textile heritage, links to Neil Armstrong, the Border Reivers, natural capital, including incredible scenery, walks and wildlife, and what it sees as a number of outstanding local businesses, such as Latimer's of Langholm, as well as being home to the Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser and so much more; considers that Transport Scotland does not have sufficient flexibility when it comes to making sure that trunk roads work for local people and understands that this has caused frustration among local residents; recognises the reported concerns voiced by many smaller, more remote and rural communities that they are often not served well by the trunk road network; notes the calls for Transport Scotland and operating companies to do more to support communities in encouraging drivers to stop and take advantage of the many services and visitor attractions available; welcomes that some progress has been made in relation to enhanced signage for Langholm but understands that the town is still absent from signs on the M74, and that residents believe that the signage remains inadequate on the A7 itself; notes the belief that all communities on trunk roads should be better supported and funded when it comes to brown tourism signs;

further notes the view regarding the A7 corridor that more work is needed to promote the Borders Historic Route and all its communities and attractions; recognises what it sees as the importance of the visitor economy and tourism in protecting local livelihoods and addressing rural depopulation, and notes the view that there are many untapped opportunities for the Scottish Government and its agencies to do more to get behind proactive communities like Langholm.

The meeting closed at 6.12 pm.

**David McGill**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
16 April 2024

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

**Committee Reports**

The following report was published on 4 April 2024—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 25th Report, 2024 (Session 6): Delegated powers in the Children (Care and Justice) (Scotland) Bill (as amended at Stage 2) (SP Paper 565)

The following report was published on 16 April 2024—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 26th Report, 2024 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 16th April 2024 (SP Paper 566)

**Subordinate Legislation**

**Affirmative Instruments**

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 3 April 2024 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

International Organisations (Immunities and Privileges) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2024 [draft]  
laid under section 10(1) of the International Organisations Act 1968

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 15 April 2024 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Scottish Tribunals (Listed Tribunals) Regulations 2024 [draft]  
laid under section 79(2)(b) of the Tribunals (Scotland) Act 2014

**Legislative Consent Memorandum**

The following memorandum was lodged on 2 April 2024—

Neil Gray, Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care:  
Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Tobacco and Vapes Bill (UK Parliament legislation) (LCM-S6-44)

**Other Documents**

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 2 April 2024 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**Scottish Public Services Ombudsman: Strategic Plan 2024-2028**  
**(SPSO/2024/SP)** laid under Section 17A of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 3 April 2024 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**HMICS Custody Progress Inspection Report – Dumfries & Galloway (HMICS/2024/02)** laid under section 79(3) of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 10 April 2024 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**HMICS Frontline Focus – Wellbeing (HMICS/2024/03)** laid before the Scottish Parliament by His Majesty’s Inspector of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) under section 79(3) of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 15 April 2024 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**Scottish Government: Annual Report on Procurement Activity in Scotland - An overview of procurement activity 2021-22 (SG/2024/50)** laid under Section 21(4)(b) of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014

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