



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 3, No. 83, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 28 February 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 on Justice and Home Affairs, were answered by Cabinet Secretaries, a Minister and the Solicitor General.

**2. Local Government Finance (Scotland) Order 2024:** The Minister for Community Wealth and Public Finance (Tom Arthur) moved S6M-12130—That the Parliament agrees that the Local Government Finance (Scotland) Order 2024 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 65, Against 0, Abstentions 52).

**3. National Care Service (Scotland) Bill (Referral Back to Lead Committee at Stage 1):** Jackie Baillie moved S6M-12317—That the Parliament agrees that the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill be referred back to the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee for a further report on the general principles of the Bill.

Sandesh Gulhane moved amendment S6M-12317.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-12317 in the name of Jackie Baillie (National Care Service (Scotland) Bill (Referral Back to Lead Committee at Stage 1)), insert at end “, and, in so doing, expresses severe concern about the viability of the Bill, its related costings and its handling by the Scottish Government.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 51, Against 66, Abstentions 0).

The motion was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 52, Against 64, Abstentions 0).

**4. Recommendations of the Independent Review of Qualifications and Assessment:** The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills (Jenny Gilruth) moved S6M-12304—That the Parliament welcomes It's Our Future, the final report of the Independent Review of Qualifications and Assessment; notes the report's recommendations, including proposals to change the balance in assessment methods in the Senior Phase; acknowledges the substantial engagement from teachers on the Review's recommendations since publication; agrees that it is crucial that the Scottish Government ensures a fair and credible qualifications and assessment system that enhances learning and teaching and creates improved outcomes for young people; reaffirms the need to make significant progress in the reform of the qualifications and assessment landscape in this parliamentary session, with initial changes starting in 2024; agrees that these reforms must be taken forward with young people and teachers, with changes clearly understood by parents, carers, employers and further and higher education institutions; recognises that the process of education reform must not solely be about qualifications and structures, but also about continuously improving Scotland's 3-18 curriculum framework to ensure seamless progression and to support pupils and teachers in classrooms, and agrees that trusted professionals working in Scotland's schools must be provided with the necessary support to enable the adoption of any proposed new approaches to assessment.

Liam Kerr moved amendment S6M-12304.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-12304 in the name of Jenny Gilruth (Recommendations of the Independent Review of Qualifications and Assessment), insert at end “; believes that, given the concerns highlighted by teachers surrounding some aspects of the review, the implementation of any of its recommendations must be done in conjunction with teachers, parents, pupils and staff, with their voices leading change, and acknowledges that, despite considerable review of the education system, the Scottish Government is not progressing with the radical change that many suggest is needed to Scotland's education system, which has suffered over the last 17 years.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 31, Against 86, Abstentions 0).

Pam Duncan-Glancy moved amendment S6M-12304.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-12304 in the name of Jenny Gilruth (Recommendations of the Independent Review of Qualifications and Assessment), leave out from “acknowledges” to end and insert “believes that teachers, parents and pupils need to be central to the actions taken to progress reform, particularly to take account of the context in which it exists, including rising violence in schools, reductions in pupil attendance, reductions in staff, growing class sizes, increases in staff workload and the need for more

non-contact time; further believes that these issues make reform even more urgent; urges a joined-up approach to reform, including implementing the Morgan review, to address pressing issues with provision for pupils with additional support needs, and connecting school-based reform to the wider reform on skills so that the opportunities for young people in Scotland are maximised, and believes that the Scottish Government must, in addition to responding to individual reviews, address the outstanding structural problems in Scottish education so that it can create a fairer system, which can deliver opportunities for all of Scotland's young people."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 51, Against 66, Abstentions 0).

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 96, Against 20, Abstentions 0).

**5. Business Programme:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-12320—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 5 March 2024

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Ministerial Statement: Ferguson Marine

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Scotland's Place in the World

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 6 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 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 7 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: International Women's Day: Global Perspective

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 12 March 2024

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Housing (Cladding Remediation) (Scotland) Bill

followed by Financial Resolution: Housing (Cladding Remediation) (Scotland) Bill

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 13 March 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 Labour 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 14 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: Social Justice

followed by Social Justice and Social Security Committee Debate: Addressing Child Poverty Through Parental Employment

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 4 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.

**6. Stage 1 Extension:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-12321—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Circular Economy (Scotland) Bill at stage 1 be extended to 22 March 2024.

The motion was agreed to.

**7. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-12322—That the Parliament agrees that the Community Care (Personal Care and Nursing Care) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2024 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**8. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-12323—That the Parliament agrees that the Consumer Scotland Act 2020 (Relevant Public Authorities) 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-12324—That the Parliament agrees that the Provision of Early Learning and Childcare (Specified Children) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2024 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**10. Decision Time:** The Parliament took decisions on items 2, 3, 4, 7, 8 and 9 as noted above.

**11. Local Infrastructure and Rural Connectivity on the A77 and A75:** The Parliament debated S6M-10634 in the name of Sharon Dowey—That the Parliament recognises what it sees as the significance of developing local roads and enhancing rural connectivity, particularly in relation to the A77 and A75; considers that well-connected road networks play an essential role in fostering economic growth and rural development; emphasises the impact of what it sees as inadequate infrastructure on rural livelihoods; believes that the A77 and A75 are vital transportation routes connecting various regions along the west coast of Scotland, including the South Scotland region; notes the view that it is important to improve the condition, capacity, and safety features of the A77 and A75; believes that the development of local roads, such as the A77 and A75, is crucial in improving rural connectivity and access to essential services; notes the view that the Scottish Government should explore funding opportunities to support the development of local roads and rural connectivity, while recognising that such investments will, it believes, yield long-term benefits; further notes the view that MSPs should promote what it sees as the importance of rural connectivity and local road development, and believes that roads such as the A77 and A75 are critical roads for fostering regional growth, developing Scotland’s rural communities, supporting tourism, and enhancing the overall wellbeing of the people that they serve.

The meeting closed at 6.21 pm.

**David McGill**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
28 February 2024

## **Appendix**

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

### **Committee Reports**

The following reports were published on 28 February 2024—

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee, 2nd Report, 2024 (Session 6):  
Stage 1 Report on the Circular Economy (Scotland) Bill (SP Paper 429)

Rural Affairs and Islands Committee, 3rd Report, 2024 (Session 6):  
Subordinate legislation considered by the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee  
on 28 February 2024 (SP Paper 535)

The following report will be published on 29 February 2024—

Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee, 1st Report, 2024  
(Session 6): Stage 1 Report on the Housing (Cladding Remediation)  
(Scotland) Bill (SP Paper 536)

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