



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 3, No. 5, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 24 May 2023

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy, and then on Finance and Parliamentary Business, were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.

2. Ending Violence in Scottish Schools: Stephen Kerr moved S6M-09126— That the Parliament believes that no pupil, teacher or member of school staff should suffer physical or verbal abuse and that every child and young person has the right to an uninterrupted school day, free from violence and disruption; notes the impact that the current escalation of violence in schools has had on the teaching profession, especially in relation to retention and mental health; understands that evidence relating to violence in schools was last gathered in 2016, and therefore calls on the Scottish Government to address this matter urgently by collecting data and publishing findings on a regular basis, and believes that the Scottish Government must work with parents, schools, local authorities and unions to establish a nationwide school violence working group, that will produce a national framework for reporting instances of violence and disruption within schools, update guidance on exclusions laws and policies, ensure pupil support assistants are available and issue materials that will support parents and schools, assisting them in promoting acceptable behaviour and tackling violence and disruption.

The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills (Jenny Gilruth) moved amendment S6M-09126.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-09126 in the name of Stephen Kerr (Ending Violence in Scottish Schools), leave out from “notes” to end and insert “recognises the impact that violence in schools has on teachers and school staff, especially in relation to retention and mental health; further recognises that evidence relating to violence in schools was last gathered in 2016, and that data collection is now underway, and that this will be published later in 2023 as routine publication returns to pre-pandemic arrangements; recognises that there has been a shift in school culture over the period of the COVID-19 pandemic that affects a wide range of issues, including violence but also extending to issues such as attendance, and agrees that the Scottish Government should work with young people, parents and carers, schools, local authorities and unions to host a summit on the issue of violence in schools, to identify the work that is now needed to ensure that the right national framework for accurately reporting instances of violence and disruption within schools is in place, the right guidance on exclusions laws and policies is available, and the right resources that are needed to support schools, parents and carers and young people themselves are available to assist them in promoting acceptable behaviour and tackling violence and disruption.”

Pam Duncan-Glancy moved amendment S6M-09126.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-09126 in the name of Stephen Kerr (Ending Violence in Scottish Schools), leave out from “establish” to end and insert “urgently develop and bring forward a national strategy for tackling violence in schools that will empower teachers and schools, ensure pupil support assistants are available, develop material that will inform parents and schools, tackle the growth in accessibility and circulation of harmful online content and produce a national framework for reporting instances of violence and disruption within schools; recognises that trade unions have been raising concerns about violence and risks to teachers’ safety in Scotland for a number of years; understands that the recent escalation in violence has not started overnight and that there are various factors that contribute to the circumstances where violent incidents may occur, including class sizes, a lack of mental health support for pupils, harmful online content, inequality and cuts to youth services, and calls on the Scottish Government to deliver on the promises that have been made to Scotland’s young people and ensure that any assessment of the current situation takes into account the wider circumstances facing pupils, teachers and parents, including the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the cost of living crisis and the underfunding of local services.”

After debate, amendment S6M-09126.3 was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 93, Against 18, Abstentions 0). As a result, amendment S6M-09126.2 was pre-empted.

The motion, as amended, was then agreed to (DT).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament believes that no pupil, teacher or member of school staff should suffer physical or verbal abuse and that every child and young person has the right

to an uninterrupted school day, free from violence and disruption; recognises the impact that violence in schools has on teachers and school staff, especially in relation to retention and mental health; further recognises that evidence relating to violence in schools was last gathered in 2016, and that data collection is now underway, and that this will be published later in 2023 as routine publication returns to pre-pandemic arrangements; recognises that there has been a shift in school culture over the period of the COVID-19 pandemic that affects a wide range of issues, including violence but also extending to issues such as attendance, and agrees that the Scottish Government should work with young people, parents and carers, schools, local authorities and unions to host a summit on the issue of violence in schools, to identify the work that is now needed to ensure that the right national framework for accurately reporting instances of violence and disruption within schools is in place, the right guidance on exclusions laws and policies is available, and the right resources that are needed to support schools, parents and carers and young people themselves are available to assist them in promoting acceptable behaviour and tackling violence and disruption.

3. Powers of Attorney Bill - UK Legislation: The Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport (Maree Todd) moved S6M-09109—That the Parliament agrees that the relevant provisions of the Powers of Attorney Bill, introduced in the House of Commons on 15 June 2022, so far as these matters fall within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament, should be considered by the UK Parliament.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

4. Business Programme: The Minister for Cabinet and Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-09147—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 30 May 2023

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Ministerial Statement: Diet and Healthy Weight Consultations

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Hospital at Home Programme in Scotland

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 31 May 2023

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 Government Debate: Let's Talk Education - The National Discussion

followed by Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body Motion: Reimbursement of Members' Expenses Scheme

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 1 June 2023

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 Scottish Government Debate: Trustworthy, Ethical and Inclusive Artificial Intelligence - Seizing Opportunities for Scotland's People and Businesses

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 6 June 2023

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 7 June 2023

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Constitution, External Affairs and Culture; Justice and Home Affairs

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 8 June 2023

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: Education and Skills

followed by Public Audit Committee Debate: New Vessels for the Clyde and the Hebrides - Arrangements to Deliver Vessels 801 and 802

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 29 May 2023, 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.

5. Stage 2 Timetable: The Minister for Cabinet and Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-09148—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Bill at stage 2 be completed by 9 June 2023.

The motion was agreed to.

6. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Cabinet and Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-09149—That

the Parliament agrees that the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 (Interim Target) Amendment Regulations 2023 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

7. Parliamentary Recess Dates: The Minister for Cabinet and Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-09150—That the Parliament agrees the following parliamentary recess dates under Rule 2.3.1: 10 to 18 February 2024 (inclusive), 30 March to 14 April 2024 (inclusive), 29 June to 31 August 2024 (inclusive), 12 October to 27 October 2024 (inclusive), 21 December 2024 to 5 January 2025 (inclusive).

The motion was agreed to (DT).

8. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 2, 3, 6 and 7 as noted above.

9. Race for Life Celebrates 30-year Anniversary: The Parliament debated S6M-08731 in the name of David Torrance—That the Parliament celebrates the 30th anniversary of the founding of Race for Life; understands that Race for Life, in partnership with Standard Life, is Cancer Research UK's biggest series of fundraising events that take place across the UK; further understands that, since its inception 30 years ago, Race for Life has raised over £940 million towards lifesaving cancer research and, in that time, over 10 million participants have taken part in Race for Life events; notes that the Race for Life is open to everyone, no matter their fitness level, background, or gender, with all sponsorship money going towards Cancer Research UK's lifesaving work in its effort to beat all types of cancer; welcomes the multitude of local events across the UK organised each year, and wishes all participants the very best for their efforts.

The meeting closed at 5.48 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
24 May 2023

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

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 24 May 2023—

Public Audit Committee, 2nd Report, 2023 (Session 6): Annual Report 2022-23 (SP Paper 372)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 33rd Report, 2023 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 23 May 2023 (SP Paper 375)

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee, 11th Report, 2023 (Session 6): Annual Report 2022-2023 (SP Paper 378)

Legislative Consent Memorandum

The following memorandum was lodged on 24 May 2023—

Angus Robertson, Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, Europe, and External Affairs: Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill (UK Parliament legislation) (LCM-S6-29a)

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 24 May 2023 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Criminal courts backlog - A report prepared for the Auditor General for Scotland (AGS/2023/3) laid under the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Nitrogen use efficiency in Scotland: Annual Report 2023 (SG/2023/95) laid under Section 5(1)(c) of The Climate Change (Nitrogen Balance Sheet) (Scotland) Regulations 2022

Scottish Public Services Ombudsman: Compendium of Case Reports for May 2023 (SPSO/2023/05) laid under Sections 15(1) and 15(1A) of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002

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