



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 3, No. 39, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 26 October 2023

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

The meeting opened at 11.40 am.

- 1. General Questions:** Questions were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.
- 2. First Minister's Questions:** Questions were answered by the First Minister (Humza Yousaf).
- 3. Free Bus Travel for People Seeking Asylum:** The Parliament debated S6M-10188 in the name of Paul Sweeney—That the Parliament notes the calls to extend the current provision of concessionary bus travel in Scotland, including in the Glasgow region, to include people seeking asylum; acknowledges the efforts of third sector organisations that are working in the asylum sector in leading the free bus travel campaign, which was launched in December 2021, such as VOICES Network and Maryhill Integration Network; notes that free bus travel for people seeking asylum has been publicly supported by all faith leaders in the Scottish Religious Leaders Forum and also recommended by the Poverty Alliance and Mental Health Foundation; understands that people seeking asylum do not have the right to work and rely on a financial allowance, which amounts to approximately £6 per day; appreciates that asylum and immigration are reserved matters for the UK Government, but considers that there are interventions that can be made within devolved competence to improve the lives of people in Scotland who are in receipt of asylum support; notes the commitment in the Programme for Government 2022-23 to consider how best to provide free bus travel to people seeking asylum, and further notes the calls encouraging the Scottish Government to set out how it plans to deliver on this commitment as soon as possible.

**4. Portfolio Questions:** Questions on Education and Skills were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and a Minister.

**5. Embedding Public Participation in the Work of the Parliament:** Jackson Carlaw, on behalf of the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee, moved S6M-10765—That the Parliament notes the conclusions of the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee's 2nd Report, 2023 (Session 6), Embedding Public Participation in the Work of the Parliament (SP Paper 427), including its responses to the recommendations of the Citizens' Panel on participation; agrees with the Committee's recommendation that the Parliament establish two further citizens' panels (or people's panels) in the current parliamentary session with a view to making the use of such panels a regular feature of committee scrutiny from Session 7 onwards; endorses the Committee's recommended principles for the future use of deliberative democracy and its recommendations for panel size, composition and participant selection, and acknowledges the work already being done by Parliament staff to develop and improve engagement methods.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**6. Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Bill - UK Legislation:** The Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance (Shona Robison) moved S6M-10958—That the Parliament agrees that the relevant provisions of the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Bill, introduced in the House of Commons on 22 September 2022, and subsequently amended in relation to the Register of Overseas Entities, 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. Decision Time:** The Parliament took decisions on items 5 and 6 as noted above.

The meeting closed at 5.02 pm.

**David McGill**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
26 October 2023

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

**Subordinate Legislation**

**Negative Instruments**

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 26 October 2023 and is subject to the negative procedure—

Public Procurement (Agreement on Government Procurement) (Thresholds) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 (SSI 2023/300) laid under Regulation 83A(1) of the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2015, Regulation 108A(1) of the Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016, Regulation 60ZA(1) of the Concession Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 and Paragraph 2(2) of Schedule 2 of the Trade Act 2021

**Other Documents**

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 26 October 2023 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**Ending Homelessness Together: Annual report to the Scottish Parliament, October 2023 (SG/2023/228)** laid at the request of a member of the Scottish Government and not under any laying power

**Environmental Standards Scotland Annual Report and Accounts 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2023 (ESS/2023/01)** laid under Schedule 1(12)(1) of the UK Withdrawal for the European Union (Continuity) (Scotland) Act 2021

**Scotland's Land Use Strategy Annual Progress Report – 2022/2023 (SG/2023/255)** laid under section 37A of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

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