



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 11, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 5 June 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 Parliamentary Business, and then on Justice and Home Affairs, were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.
- 2. Ministerial Statement:** The Cabinet Secretary for Transport (Fiona Hyslop) made a statement and answered questions on Low Emission Zones - Protecting Public Health and Improving Air Quality.
- 3. Improving Scotland's Roads:** Graham Simpson moved S6M-13480—That the Parliament acknowledges the importance of a well-maintained road network to Scotland's economy; believes that Scottish National Party administrations have repeatedly broken promises on major road upgrades and that their underfunding of Scottish local authorities has led to a deterioration in the condition of local roads, and calls upon the Scottish Government to fairly fund Scottish local authorities and make road infrastructure a key priority.

The Cabinet Secretary for Transport (Fiona Hyslop) moved amendment S6M-13480.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-13480 in the name of Graham Simpson (Improving Scotland's Roads), leave out from “believes” to end and insert “notes that the procurement process for the construction of the A9 Dualling Tay Crossing to Ballinluig project has now started, and that the contract for the A9 Dualling Tomatin to Moy project is on track to achieve contract award early in

summer 2024; further notes that the statutory authorisation process is now complete for the A96 Dualling Inverness to Nairn (including Nairn Bypass) project, which will enable the purchase of land required to build the project; notes that the Scottish Government is delivering a range of measures in the short, medium and long term to reduce the risk of impact of landslides at the A83 Rest and Be Thankful; further notes that the procurement of technical advisors is underway to take forward design work on Springholm and Crocketford Bypasses on the A75; notes that investment in safely operating and maintaining the trunk road network will increase from over £525 million in 2023-24 to over £683 million in 2024-25, which is an increase of over 30%; further notes the ongoing commitment to Scotland's 2030 road safety targets, with a record £36 million earmarked for investment, including £10 million for the local road network through the Road Safety Improvement Fund; agrees that the funding in the UK Spring Budget falls far short of what Scotland needs to deliver improvements to Scotland's infrastructure, and will result in a reduction in real terms of the Scottish block grant for capital of 8.7% by 2027-28, and calls on the incoming UK administration to bring forward an emergency budget to address this hole in Scotland's capital budget of over £1.3 billion."

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 56, Against 55 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

Alex Rowley moved amendment S6M-13480.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-13480 in the name of Graham Simpson (Improving Scotland's Roads), insert at end “; further calls on the Scottish Government to confirm when the Bus Partnership Fund will be reinstated following the decision to pause this crucial infrastructure investment, and calls for a clear delivery plan for active travel, bus, ferry and rail infrastructure projects, with clear actions to reverse the decline in public transport, which has seen significant cuts to both rail and bus services in Scotland.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 56 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 57, Abstentions 0 – by casting vote).

The motion, as amended, was then agreed to ((DT) by division: For 57, Against 55 (including 2 proxy votes, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament acknowledges the importance of a well-maintained road network to Scotland's economy; notes that the procurement process for the construction of the A9 Dualling Tay Crossing to Ballinluig project has now started, and that the contract for the A9 Dualling Tomatin to Moy project is on track to achieve contract award early in summer 2024; further notes that the statutory authorisation process is now complete for the A96 Dualling Inverness to Nairn (including Nairn Bypass) project, which will enable the purchase of land required to build the project; notes that the Scottish Government is delivering a range of measures in the short, medium and long term to reduce the risk of impact of landslides at the A83 Rest and Be Thankful; further notes that the procurement of technical advisors is underway to

take forward design work on Springholm and Crocketford Bypasses on the A75; notes that investment in safely operating and maintaining the trunk road network will increase from over £525 million in 2023-24 to over £683 million in 2024-25, which is an increase of over 30%; further notes the ongoing commitment to Scotland's 2030 road safety targets, with a record £36 million earmarked for investment, including £10 million for the local road network through the Road Safety Improvement Fund; agrees that the funding in the UK Spring Budget falls far short of what Scotland needs to deliver improvements to Scotland's infrastructure, and will result in a reduction in real terms of the Scottish block grant for capital of 8.7% by 2027-28, and calls on the incoming UK administration to bring forward an emergency budget to address this hole in Scotland's capital budget of over £1.3 billion.

4. Recognising the Contribution of Scotland's Oil and Gas Industry: Douglas Lumsden moved S6M-13482—That the Parliament recognises the invaluable contribution that oil and gas makes to Scotland, with the industry supporting 94,000 jobs and providing over £10 billion in revenue in 2022-23; notes with concern that the Scottish Government has a presumption against oil and gas, whilst the Labour Party has said it will not allow any new licences, something that industry experts have said could lead to thousands of job losses; welcomes the provisions of the Offshore Petroleum Licensing Bill, which, when passed, will increase investor confidence in the oil and gas sector and reduce the UK's dependence on higher-emission imports from overseas; welcomes the approval of the Rosebank oil field and awaits a similar decision on the Cambo oil field; appreciates that oil and gas will still be a vital component of the UK's energy mix in the future and that it is more environmentally friendly for the country to produce its own oil and gas than import it from abroad, and notes with concern the extremist positions taken by some activists, who are opposed to the very existence of a North Sea oil and gas sector, and condemns their actions, which are irresponsible, damaging and disruptive.

The Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy (Màiri McAllan) moved amendment S6M-13482.4—

As an amendment to motion S6M-13482 in the name of Douglas Lumsden (Recognising the Contribution of Scotland's Oil and Gas Industry), leave out from first “that oil” to end and insert “of the highly skilled and internationally recognised workforce in the oil and gas sector and the part that it plays in Scotland's economy; believes that any responsible government that cares about the workforce and its future, as well as a just transition in regions such as the north east of Scotland and Shetland, and sites such as Grangemouth and Mossmorran, must now plan for a managed energy transition; notes that Scotland has been well positioned twice in terms of natural energy resources, once for North Sea oil and gas and now again for renewables; calls on the Scottish Government to bring forward a finalised Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan in summer 2024 that takes an evidence-based and pragmatic approach and ensures that climate compatibility assessment and energy security are properly reflected; understands the clear scientific evidence that there is an urgent need to transition away from fossil fuels globally if the Paris Agreement climate goals are to be met, and that the North Sea is a geologically mature and declining basin; appreciates that a key element of a

managed transition must be a fiscal regime for the entire energy sector that provides stability and certainty, protects jobs based in Scotland and incentivises investment in renewables, and believes that the incoming UK administration should invest in a just transition for Scotland's valued oil and gas workforce to a net zero future as North Sea resources decline, and invest in reducing emissions in line with climate commitments.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 56, Against 57 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0 – by casting vote).

Sarah Boyack moved amendment S6M-13482.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-13482 in the name of Douglas Lumsden (Recognising the Contribution of Scotland's Oil and Gas Industry), leave out from first “notes” to end and insert “agrees that, as part of the energy transition, oil and gas production will continue in the North Sea for decades to come; believes that if Scotland is to maintain its reputation for expertise in energy generation, there is a need to deliver a just transition to the clean energy industries of the future; further believes that it is the Scottish National Party (SNP)'s failure to plan and invest for a just transition that is putting jobs at risk; calls on the UK and Scottish governments to work together to deliver a skills passport to protect workers and help Scotland's world-leading offshore workforce transition to the renewables sector; further calls on the Scottish Government to reform Scotland's planning system to make it an asset in attracting investment by providing efficiency and certainty for developers; condemns the economic incompetence of the Conservative Party and the SNP, which has exacerbated the cost of living crisis for households in Scotland; notes that the Scottish Government has chosen to side with energy giants over working people with its recent u-turn on a windfall tax on the exorbitant profits of oil and gas companies, while raising taxes on working people; believes that the policies and instability of the UK Government further undermined progress in delivering the energy jobs of the future and failing to improve energy security, and further believes that only the UK Labour Party has a plan for the transition through its Green Prosperity Plan, which will support 69,000 green jobs in Scotland, and creation of GB Energy as a publicly-owned energy company, which will ensure jobs and supply chains are built in the UK and Scotland, developing clean energy industries and that no community is left behind.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 19 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 94 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 1).

Patrick Harvie moved amendment S6M-13482.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-13482 in the name of Douglas Lumsden (Recognising the Contribution of Scotland's Oil and Gas Industry), leave out from “makes” to end and insert “has made to Scotland's economy and the contribution that it has made to the greenhouse gas emissions, which threaten the future of humanity and much of the living world; accepts the reality that the North Sea is a declining basin, that most of its production is for export and

does not contribute to energy security, and that the world already has far more fossil fuel in existing reserves than it can afford to use in any scenario consistent with the Paris Agreement; notes that the industry supports an estimated 30,000 direct jobs and that these skilled workers need a managed transition to green industries that is both just and fast; further notes the long track record of the fossil fuel industry in first covering up climate science, then promoting climate denial conspiracy theories, before shifting to its current strategy of lobbying for slower climate action; notes with concern reports that the Scottish Government is considering ending its presumption against new oil and gas licences; condemns the UK Offshore Petroleum Licensing Bill, which would reward the fossil fuel industry and do nothing to reduce the UK's dependence on it; notes with concern the extremist positions taken by some fossil fuel apologists who are opposed to the very existence of a liveable world, and condemns their actions, which are irresponsible, damaging and disruptive.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 7 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 107 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0).

Liam McArthur moved amendment S6M-13482.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-13482 in the name of Douglas Lumsden (Recognising the Contribution of Scotland's Oil and Gas Industry), leave out from first “notes” to end and insert “recognises that there is a climate emergency and that it is essential that Scotland meets its net zero targets by 2045 and drives down its reliance on fossil fuels; believes that the phasing down of the traditional oil and gas sector must be done hand in hand with the expansion of renewables and the creation of green jobs, using the wealth of talent and skills available, in order to ensure that communities are not left behind, and further believes that, in order to achieve a successful just transition, both of Scotland's governments must work together, and with the oil and gas and renewables sectors, so that change can be managed properly and effectively.”

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 79 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 34 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 1).

The motion, as amended, was then agreed to ((DT) by division: For 106 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 7 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament recognises the invaluable contribution that oil and gas makes to Scotland, with the industry supporting 94,000 jobs and providing over £10 billion in revenue in 2022-23; recognises that there is a climate emergency and that it is essential that Scotland meets its net zero targets by 2045 and drives down its reliance on fossil fuels; believes that the phasing down of the traditional oil and gas sector must be done hand in hand with the expansion of renewables and the creation of green jobs, using the wealth of talent and skills available, in order to ensure that communities are not left behind, and further believes that, in order to

achieve a successful just transition, both of Scotland's governments must work together, and with the oil and gas and renewables sectors, so that change can be managed properly and effectively.

5. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-13493—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 11 June 2024

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Scottish Government Priorities: Eradicating Child Poverty

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 12 June 2024

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Deputy First Minister Responsibilities, Economy and Gaelic; Finance and Local Government

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Abortion Services (Safe Access Zones) (Scotland) Bill

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Approval of SSIs (if required)

7.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 13 June 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 Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body Questions

2.45 pm Portfolio Questions: Net Zero and Energy, and Transport

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Scottish Government Priorities: Investing in Scotland's Public Services

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 18 June 2024

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Agriculture and Rural Communities (Scotland) Bill

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

9.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 19 June 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 Government Business

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 20 June 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 Scottish Government Business

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Gender Representation on Public Boards (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

4.30 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

(b) that, for the purposes of Portfolio Questions in the week beginning 10 June 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.

Liz Smith moved amendment S6M- S6M-13493.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-13493 in the name of Jamie Hepburn (Business Programme), leave out from third "*followed by Business Motions*" to second "5.00 pm Decision Time" and insert—

"followed by Ministerial Statement: Allocation of EU Structural Funds

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.30 pm Decision Time".

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to (by division: For 55 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 56, Abstentions 0).

The motion was then agreed to.

6. Stage 1 Extension: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-13494—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Police (Ethics, Conduct and Scrutiny) (Scotland) Bill at stage 1 be extended to 13 September 2024.

The motion was agreed to.

7. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-13495—That the Parliament agrees that the Sea Fisheries (Remote Electronic Monitoring and Regulation of Scallop Fishing) (Scotland) Regulations 2024 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 85 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 0, Abstentions 27).

8. Approval of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman: Child-friendly Complaint Handling Statement of Principles: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-13496—That the Parliament agrees that the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman: Child-friendly Complaint Handling Statement of Principles (SPSO/2024/01) be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

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

10. 40th Anniversary of Volunteers' Week: The Parliament debated S6M-12850 in the name of Kevin Stewart—That the Parliament welcomes the 40th anniversary of Volunteers' Week, which will take place from 3 to 9 June 2024; notes that Volunteers' Week, which takes place from the first Monday of June every year, celebrates what it considers to be the invaluable contribution that volunteers make to society by selflessly giving up their time and energy to help other people, as well as inspiring others to try their hand at volunteering; understands that Volunteers' Week will be marked by thousands of charities, voluntary groups and social organisations coming together across hundreds of events and activities, including volunteer recruitment events, open days, coffee mornings and awards ceremonies, and culminating with “The Big Help Out”, which is aimed at encouraging more people to become part of the volunteering community; sends its best wishes to everyone taking part in Volunteers' Week, and thanks all the volunteers for everything that they do in improving lives in Aberdeen and in communities across Scotland.

The meeting closed at 7.07 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
5 June 2024

Appendix

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

Other Documents

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 4 June 2024 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Best Start, Bright Futures: Tackling Child Poverty Progress Report 2023-24 (SG/2024/115) laid under Section 9 of the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017

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