



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 14, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 12 June 2024

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

**1. Portfolio Questions:** Questions on Deputy First Minister Responsibilities, Economy and Gaelic, and then on Finance and Local Government, were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.

**2. Stage 3 Timetable:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-13580—That the Parliament agrees that, during stage 3 of the Abortion Services (Safe Access Zones) (Scotland) Bill, debate on groups of amendments shall, subject to Rule 9.8.4A, be brought to a conclusion by the time limits indicated, those time limits being calculated from when the stage begins and excluding any periods when other business is under consideration or when a meeting of the Parliament is suspended (other than a suspension following the first division in the stage being called) or otherwise not in progress:

Groups 1 to 3: 45 minutes

Groups 4 to 6: 1 hour 25 minutes.

The motion was agreed to.

**3. Abortion Services (Safe Access Zones) (Scotland) Bill - Stage 3:** The Bill was considered at Stage 3.

The following amendments were agreed to (without division): 1, 7, 10 and 11.

The following amendments were disagreed to (by division)—

- 6 (For 29, Against 81 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 1)
- 9 (For 29, Against 79 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 1).

The following amendments were moved and, no member having objected, withdrawn: 2, 3 and 8.

The following amendments were not moved: 4 and 5.

**4. Abortion Services (Safe Access Zones) (Scotland) Bill:** Gillian Mackay moved S6M-13571—That the Parliament agrees that the Abortion Services (Safe Access Zones) (Scotland) Bill be passed.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 118 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 1, Abstentions 0).

**5. Business Programme:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-13585—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

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

8.00 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* Ministerial Statement: 2022 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

*followed by* Scottish Government Debate: Scottish Government Priorities: Growing the Economy

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

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Approval of SSIs (if required)

6.00 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* Ministerial Statement: 2023-24 Provisional Outturn

*followed by* Ministerial Statement: Scottish Government Response to Scotland's Housing Emergency

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

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

4.25 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Tuesday 25 June 2024

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Topical Questions (if selected)

*followed by* Stage 3 Proceedings: Circular Economy (Scotland) Bill

*followed by* Committee Announcements

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

9.00 pm Decision Time

Wednesday 26 June 2024

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Constitution, External Affairs and Culture, and Parliamentary Business; Justice and Home Affairs; Education and Skills

*followed by* Stage 1 Debate: Scottish Elections (Representation and Reform) Bill

*followed by* Financial Resolution: Scottish Elections (Representation and Reform) Bill

*followed by* Stage 3 Debate: Circular Economy (Scotland) Bill

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Approval of SSIs (if required)

6.00 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Thursday 27 June 2024

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

12.45 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

*followed by* Members' Business

(b) that, for the purposes of Portfolio Questions in the week beginning 17 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.

The motion was agreed to.

**6. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-13616— That the Parliament agrees that the Early Release of Prisoners and Prescribed Victim Supporters (Scotland) Regulations 2024 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 66, Against 47 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 5).

**7. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-13586—That the Parliament agrees that the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978 (Independent Health Care) Modification Order 2024 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**8. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-13587—That the Parliament agrees that the Healthcare Improvement Scotland (Inspections) Amendment Regulations 2024 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**9. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-13588—That the Parliament agrees that the Carer's Assistance (Carer Support Payment) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2024 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**10. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-13589—That the Parliament agrees that the Scottish Pubs Code Adjudicator (Duty to Publish Certain Information) Regulations 2024 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**11. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-13590—That the Parliament agrees that the Scottish Pubs Code Adjudicator (Miscellaneous Listings) Order 2024 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**12. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-13591—That the Parliament agrees that the Scottish Pubs Code Regulations 2024 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**13. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-13592—That the Parliament agrees that the Tied Pubs (Scottish Arbitration Rules) Amendment Order 2024 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**14. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-13593—That the Parliament agrees that the Tied Pubs (Fees and Financial Penalties) (Scotland) Regulations 2024 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**15. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-13594—That the Parliament agrees that the Protected Trust Deeds (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2024 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**16. Motion Without Notice:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved without notice that, under Rule 11.2.4, Decision Time be brought forward to 5.11 pm.

The motion was agreed to.

**17. Decision Time:** The Parliament took decisions on items 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 as noted above.

**18. Resolving Scotland's Rural Depopulation Crisis:** The Parliament debated S6M-13416 in the name of Tim Eagle— That the Parliament believes that many rural communities across Scotland are facing a depopulation crisis; understands that the reasons for rural depopulation are many and varied, including a lack of affordable housing, unreliable public transport, ageing infrastructure, a lack of opportunities for young people, and the inability to easily access healthcare and education services; acknowledges the Scottish Government's recently published Action Plan to Address Depopulation, which states that 14 local authority areas, including Argyll and Bute and the Western Isles, are projected to have population decline over the next decade; notes the belief that significant interventions are required to reverse what it considers to be the trend of rural depopulation, and further notes the calls for MSPs to work with impacted communities to implement measures that will deliver long-term stability, protection of local services and population growth.

**19. Motion Without Notice:** Tim Eagle moved without notice that, under Rule 8.14.3, the debate be extended by up to 30 minutes.

The motion was agreed to.

The meeting closed at 6.21 pm.

**David McGill**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
12 June 2024

## **Appendix**

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

### **Committee Reports**

The following report was published on 12 June 2024—

Criminal Justice Committee, 6th Report, 2024 (Session 6): Report on the Early Release of Prisoners and Prescribed Victim Supporters (Scotland) Regulations 2024 [draft] (SP Paper 618)

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