



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 9, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 30 May 2024

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 a Minister.
- 2. First Minister's Questions:** Questions were answered by the First Minister (John Swinney).
- 3. Physiotherapy Workforce Shortage in Scotland:** The Parliament debated S6M-12559 in the name of Alex Rowley—That the Parliament is concerned about the reported shortage of physiotherapists in the NHS workforce in Scotland and notes the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy's campaign "Scotland needs more physios"; notes the belief that Scotland does not currently educate or train enough physiotherapists to supply the workforce needs, with, it understands, only 7% of the hundreds of university applicants accepted onto undergraduate physiotherapy training places, and that this leaves considerable scope to expand the supply of qualified physiotherapists; understands that undergraduate training places have doubled in England to meet demand, but that there has been no increase in Scotland in the last decade, meaning that, while Scottish course programmes are oversubscribed with applicants, not enough places are funded to meet the needs of Scotland's NHS; acknowledges the reported views of physiotherapists, stating that they are finding it extremely difficult to recruit staff for their practices across Scotland, with record high vacancy rates, averaging over 10%, and that this is having an impact on existing staff morale, with increased levels of stress and work pressures; believes that the shortage of physiotherapists impacts on local communities, their services and staff, including in Mid Scotland and Fife, and further believes that

physiotherapy is essential to reduce hospital admissions, speed up discharge from hospital and reduce reliance on social care, all of which are critical.

4. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Social Justice were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and a Minister.

5. Ministerial Statement: The Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans (Graeme Dey MSP) made a statement and answered questions on Industrial Relations in the Further Education Sector.

6. Post Office (Horizon System) Offences (Scotland) Bill – Stage 3: The Bill was considered at Stage 3.

The following amendments were agreed to (without division): 1, 2 and 3.

The following amendments were disagreed to (by division)—

8 (For 19, Against 89, Abstentions 0)

9 (For 20 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 88, Abstentions 0)

10 (For 20 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 89, Abstentions 0)

11 (For 18 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 90, Abstentions 0).

The following amendments were moved and, no member having objected, withdrawn: 4.

The following amendments were not moved: 5, 6 and 7.

7. Post Office (Horizon System) Offences (Scotland) Bill: The Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs (Angela Constance) moved S6M-13407— That the Parliament agrees that the Post Office (Horizon System) Offences (Scotland) Bill be passed.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 116 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 0, Abstentions 0).

8. Decision Time: The Parliament took a decision on item 7 as noted above.

9. Taliban's Suppression of Women's and Girls' Rights in Afghanistan: The Parliament debated S6M-12801 in the name of Michelle Thomson—That the Parliament condemns what it sees as the continued suppression of the rights of women and girls in Afghanistan, following the takeover by the Taliban authorities; appreciates that, since the Taliban took over Afghanistan in 2021, the United Nations has continued to condemn the actions being enforced and highlight the Taliban's reported behaviour in breaking international law; considers that the requirement to be accompanied by a Mahram, a male chaperone, at all times beyond the home severely inhibits female participation in society; notes the reported restrictions on daily life for women and girls, including access to education, the use of gyms and parks, access to beauty services, bans on women working in various sectors of society, the compulsory wearing of hijabs and the reduction in available aid to women unless being delivered by women workers; notes what it sees as the

detrimental impact that restrictions to all educational levels will have on women and girls, including on their acquisition of skills, knowledge and professional development opportunities; further notes what it sees as the detrimental impact that the ban on women and girls accessing outdoor social areas and beauty services will have, including the loss of jobs and the loss of women-only spaces; is appalled by the recently reported intention of the Taliban to re-impose the stoning to death of women; notes reports that the United Nations has declared that the Taliban has restricted the rights of women so gravely that it has made Afghanistan the "most repressive country" in the world; further notes that the overall societal impacts caused by the Taliban restrictions reportedly include increasing food scarcity and reliance on humanitarian aid; understands that population displacement caused by the restrictions has wider impacts, with countries including Scotland welcoming refugees through both humanitarian routes and informal routes; notes the role of the Scottish Government in providing £1 million per annum through the Humanitarian Emergency Fund to international humanitarian crises, including in Afghanistan; recognises the contributions of local groups across Scotland, including those in the Falkirk district, in supporting refugees who have resettled in Scotland to realise their potential, and further condemns the acts of the Taliban authorities in Afghanistan.

The meeting closed at 5.27 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
30 May 2024

Appendix

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

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 30 May 2024—

Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee, 1st Report, 2024 (Session 6): Annual Report of the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee 2023/24 (SP Paper 607)

Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee, 4th Report, 2024 (Session 6): Annual Report 2023-24 (SP Paper 609)

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee, 2nd Report, 2024 (Session 6): Annual Report of the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee (SP Paper 610)

The following report will be published on 31 May 2024—

Criminal Justice Committee, 5th Report, 2024 (Session 6): Annual Report of the Criminal Justice Committee 2023-24 (SP Paper 608)

Subordinate Legislation

Negative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 30 May 2024 and is subject to the negative procedure—

Food Additives and Novel Foods (Authorisations and Miscellaneous Amendments) and Food Flavourings (Removal of Authorisations) (Scotland) Regulations 2024 (SSI 2024/156)

laid under Article 14A(3) of Regulation (EC) No. 1331/2008 and Article 32A(4) of Regulation (EU) 2015/2283

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