



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 44, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 6 November 2024

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

- 1. Portfolio Questions:** Questions on Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands, and then on Health and Social Care, were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.
- 2. Keeping The Promise:** The Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise (Natalie Don-Innes) moved S6M-15205—That the Parliament reaffirms its collective commitment to Keep The Promise by 2030.

Roz McCall moved amendment S6M-15205.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-15205 in the name of Natalie Don-Innes (Keeping The Promise), insert at end “; notes with concern the findings of The Promise Oversight Board’s second report, which raised doubts about Scotland’s progress towards delivering The Promise by 2030; acknowledges the February 2024 report from Who Cares? Scotland highlighting that *in one local authority area* over 83% of social workers experienced sickness-related absences in 2023; is concerned that local authorities lack adequate resources to ensure sufficient staffing, thus impacting support for care experienced children, young people and families; notes The Promise Oversight Board’s call for a focused approach to effective implementation, sufficient resources, and workforce recruitment and retention; understands that care experienced pupils are often removed from school to attend social work meetings and hearings, resulting in 1,304,088 days of missed school across 22 reporting local authorities; acknowledges Who Cares? Scotland’s October 2024 report, which

found that income gaps for care experienced individuals have grown from between 25% and 29% to as much as 38%, amounting to nearly £10,000; highlights persistent health inequalities among care experienced people, who face greater risks of chronic illnesses like hepatitis, depression, lung cancer and heart disease due to adverse childhood experiences, and calls on the Scottish Government to ensure that funding reaches those in need to implement effective, empowering solutions for care experienced individuals..”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 53 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 57 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

Martin Whitfield moved amendment S6M-15205.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-15205 in the name of Natalie Don-Innes (Keeping The Promise), insert at end “, and welcomes the Scottish Government's commitment that the proposed The Promise Bill will be in place before the end of the current parliamentary session, and its commitment to productive cross-party engagement on the Bill's contents.”

After debate, the amendment was agreed to (DT).

After debate, the motion, as amended, was agreed to (DT).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament reaffirms its collective commitment to Keep The Promise by 2030, and welcomes the Scottish Government's commitment that the proposed The Promise Bill will be in place before the end of the current parliamentary session, and its commitment to productive cross-party engagement on the Bill's contents.

3. Urgent Question: An urgent question, to ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to ensure resilience across the Clyde and Hebrides ferry network this winter, in light of the announcement that the MV Caledonian Isles will continue to be out of service until at least the end of the year, was answered by Cabinet Secretary for Transport (Fiona Hyslop).

4. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-15227—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 12 November 2024

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Ministerial Statement: Scotland's Planning System - Supporting Investment and Economic Growth and Delivering Quality Homes

followed by Scottish Government Debate: The Women's Health Plan 2021- 2024 - Progress and Next Steps

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 13 November 2024

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Constitution, External Affairs and Culture, and Parliamentary Business; 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 14 November 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: Education and Skills

followed by Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee Debate: UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 19 November 2024

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 20 November 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 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 21 November 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: Net Zero and Energy, and Transport

followed by Scottish Government Business

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 11 November 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.

5. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-15228—That the Parliament agrees that the Rural Development (Continuation of Operation) (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2024 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 83 (including 3 proxy votes), Against 0, Abstentions 27).

6. Approval of SI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-15229—That the Parliament agrees that the Scotland Act 1998 (Specification of Devolved Tax) (Building Safety) Order 2024 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

7. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-15230—That the Parliament agrees that the Upper Tribunal for Scotland Bus Registration Appeals (Composition) Regulations 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-15231—That the Parliament agrees that the Upper Tribunal for Scotland (Transfer of Functions of the Transport Tribunal) Regulations 2024 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

9. Committee Membership: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-15232—That the Parliament agrees that—

Jackie Dunbar be appointed to replace Stephanie Callaghan as a member of the Education, Children and Young People Committee; and

Kevin Stewart be appointed to replace Jackie Dunbar as a member of the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

10. Committee Membership: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-15233—That the Parliament agrees that Daniel Johnson be appointed to replace Claire Baker as a member of the Economy and Fair Work Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

11. Substitution on Committees: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-15234—That the Parliament agrees that—

Meghan Gallacher be appointed to replace Pam Gosal as the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party substitute on the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee;

Stephen Kerr be appointed as the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party substitute on the Criminal Justice Committee;

Oliver Mundell be appointed as the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party substitute on the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee;

Pam Gosal be appointed to replace Liz Smith as the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party substitute on the Economy and Fair Work Committee;

Rachael Hamilton be appointed as the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party substitute on the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee;
Annie Wells be appointed to replace Sue Webber as the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party substitute on the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee;

Graham Simpson be appointed as the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party substitute on the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee;

Sue Webber be appointed to replace Graham Simpson as the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party substitute on the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee;

Brian Whittle be appointed as the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party substitute on the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee; and

Roz McCall be appointed to replace Miles Briggs as the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party substitute on Social Justice and Social Security Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

12. Substitution on Committees: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-15235—That the Parliament agrees that Claire Baker be appointed to replace Daniel Johnson as the Scottish Labour Party substitute on the Economy and Fair Work Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

13. Office of the Clerk: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-15236—That the Parliament agrees that the Office of the Clerk be closed on Tuesday 24 (am), Friday 27, Monday 30 and Tuesday 31 December 2024.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

14. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 as noted above.

15. Tackling Sibling Sexual Abuse in Scotland: The Parliament debated S6M-12918 in the name of Fulton MacGregor—That the Parliament commends the recent paper, Tackling Sibling Sexual Abuse in Scotland, published by the Cross Party Group on Adult Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse; notes with concern the lack of Scotland-specific data regarding sibling sexual abuse (SSA); understands that SSA is the most common form of intra-familial child sexual abuse; acknowledges research that suggests that it is estimated that at least twice as many children are sexually

abused by a child sibling than by a parent; recognises that many survivors who talk of their experiences of rape or sexual assault perpetrated by a sibling find that their abuse can be met by disbelief or minimisation by adults and professionals as “sexual experimentation” or “natural curiosity”; understands that SSA is less likely to be disclosed than other forms of sexual abuse, due to shame, fears of punishment or blame, or not being believed; further understands that the consequences of SSA may include post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, substance and alcohol misuse, eating disorders and relationship difficulties throughout life; believes that there is credible evidence that SSA often goes unrecognised or is minimised by professionals, which it considers is adverse to the needs of survivors and their families; acknowledges what it considers the complex issue of SSA whereby perpetrators are often underage themselves and may be in need of additional support; notes the support for any measures to highlight the prevalence of sibling sexual abuse, its impact and what parents can do if they are concerned about sexual behaviour between siblings; further notes the belief that it is valuable to launch a reference group bringing together key agencies and those with lived experience to consolidate learning, identify best practices and steer future policy and practice so that scalable, proportionate and trauma-informed responses are available to address this issue, and notes the belief that it is beneficial to establish dedicated training courses for social workers and other safeguarding professionals, including those in the Coatbridge and Chryston constituency, specifically on disclosure and communicating with children when there are concerns about SSA.

The meeting closed at 5.53 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
6 November 2024

Appendix

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

Committee Reports

The following report will be published on 7 November 2024—

Rural Affairs and Islands Committee, 11th Report, 2024 (Session 6):
Subordinate legislation considered by the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee
on 30 October 2024 (SP Paper 679)

Other Documents

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 6 November 2024 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Scottish Legal Aid Board Annual Report and Accounts, For the year ended 31 March 2024 (SG/2024/167) laid under Section 5(7) of the Legal Aid (Scotland) Act 1986 and Section 22(5) of the Public Accountability and Finance (Scotland) Act 2000

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