



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 45, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 7 November 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 Ministers.

2. First Minister's Questions: Questions were answered by the First Minister (John Swinney).

3. North Lanarkshire School Bus Campaign: The Parliament debated S6M-15006 in the name of Gillian Mackay—That the Parliament notes with regret the reported reduction to school buses in North Lanarkshire; understands that, following the reported reduction, pupils who live less than three miles from school have to walk or get a service bus; notes that there have been reports of buses not stopping or being too full for pupils to get on; recognises that some parents believe that many of the proposed alternative walking routes are unsuitable, especially during the winter where some are unlit; understands that there are plans to extend this reduction to include primary school pupils; congratulates parents from across North Lanarkshire on their campaign, and notes the calls on the Scottish Government to engage with North Lanarkshire Council to urgently resolve this issue, and to work with all local authorities to ensure that travelling to school is safe and affordable, including through school transport guidance, the promotion of municipal bus provision and ambitious investment in safe active travel routes to school.

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

5. Brexit Impacts on Scotland's Rural Economy: The Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands (Mairi Gougeon) moved S6M-15253—That the Parliament recognises the ongoing harm caused by Brexit to Scotland's rural economy, such as barriers to trade, loss of EU funding and post-Brexit labour shortages; acknowledges that these barriers have severely impacted Scotland's world-class food and drink sector, which is of particular importance to Scotland's rural and island communities, and calls on the UK Government to consider changes to the current Brexit arrangements that would address these barriers and impacts, including through the pursuit of a comprehensive veterinary agreement with the EU.

Tim Eagle moved amendment S6M-15253.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-15253 in the name of Mairi Gougeon (Brexit Impacts on Scotland's Rural Economy), leave out from "the ongoing" to end and insert "that those working in Scotland's diverse agricultural sector are the custodians of the countryside, and that they are vital for the economy and ensuring that food security is protected; believes that many of the issues facing rural and island communities stem back many years as a result of what it believes to be the failures of several Scottish National Party administrations; understands that such issues include the lack of affordable homes, poor local infrastructure and transport options, and issues with accessing health and social services; recognises the need for common sense solutions to support Scotland's rural and island communities; expresses concern at the announcements from the UK Government about changes to agricultural property relief and the integration of agricultural funding into Scotland's block grant, and calls on the Scottish Government to prioritise the real issues facing those in rural and island communities as opposed to dealing in grievance politics."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 26, Against 85 (including 3 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

Colin Smyth moved amendment S6M-15253.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-15253 in the name of Mairi Gougeon (Brexit Impacts on Scotland's Rural Economy), insert at end "; welcomes the UK Government's commitment to reset the UK's relationship with the EU, and calls on the Scottish Government to prioritise the use of all the levers already at its disposal to improve the economy of Scotland's rural areas, through supporting jobs, providing housing, progressing infrastructure and improving transport links."

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 85 (including 3 proxy votes), Against 26, Abstentions 0).

The motion, as amended, was then agreed to ((DT) by division: For 85 (including 3 proxy votes), Against 25, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament recognises the ongoing harm caused by Brexit to Scotland's rural economy, such as barriers to trade, loss of EU funding and post-Brexit labour shortages; acknowledges that these barriers have severely impacted Scotland's world-class food and drink sector, which is of particular importance to Scotland's rural and island communities; calls on the UK Government to consider changes to the current Brexit arrangements that would address these barriers and impacts, including through the pursuit of a comprehensive veterinary agreement with the EU; welcomes the UK Government's commitment to reset the UK's relationship with the EU, and calls on the Scottish Government to prioritise the use of all the levers already at its disposal to improve the economy of Scotland's rural areas, through supporting jobs, providing housing, progressing infrastructure and improving transport links.

6. Decision Time: The Parliament took a decision on item 5 as noted above.

The meeting closed at 5.10 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
7 November 2024

Appendix

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

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 7 November 2024—

Finance and Public Administration Committee, 9th Report, 2024 (Session 6):
Report on Pre-Budget Scrutiny 2025-26 – Managing Scotland’s Public
Finances: A Strategic Approach (SP Paper 678)

Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee, 6th Report, 2024
(Session 6): Report on planning regulations considered on 29 October 2024
(SP Paper 680)

Social Justice and Social Security Committee, 11th Report, 2024 (Session 6):
Subordinate Legislation considered by the Social Justice and Social Security
Committee on 31 October 2024 (SP Paper 681)

Subordinate Legislation

Negative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 7 November 2024 and is
subject to the negative procedure—

Official Controls (Import of High Risk Food and Feed of Non-Animal Origin)
Amendment (Scotland) (No. 2) Regulations 2024 (SSI 2024/234)
laid under Article 57a(5) of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 and Article 144(5) of
Regulation (EU) 2017/625

Published by the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body

All documents are available on
the Scottish Parliament website at:

www.parliament.scot/documents

For information on the Scottish Parliament contact
Public Information on:

Telephone: 0131 348 5000 or 0800 092 7500

Email: sp.info@parliament.scot

Live chat on parliament.scot

You can write to us in any language or contact us
using the Text Relay service or in British Sign

Language through contactScotland-BSL.

© Parliamentary copyright. Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body

The Scottish Parliament's copyright policy can be found on the website -
www.parliament.scot or by contacting Public Information.