



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 46, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 12 November 2024

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

- 1. Time for Reflection:** Natalie Beal, Prison Governor and Chair of the Prison Governors Association Scotland, led Time for Reflection.
- 2. Topical Questions:** Questions were answered by a Cabinet Secretary.
- 3. Ministerial Statement:** The Minister for Public Finance (Ivan McKee) made a statement and answered questions on Scotland's Planning System – Supporting Investment and Economic Growth and Delivering Quality Homes.
- 4. The Women's Health Plan 2021-2024 – Progress and Next Steps:** The Minister for Public Health and Women's Health (Jenni Minto) moved S6M-15382— That the Parliament acknowledges the longstanding health inequalities faced by women and believes that it is vital that services and health outcomes are improved for women and girls; notes the progress made through implementation of the Women's Health Plan as a first step towards addressing these inequalities, in particular the appointment and work of the first Women's Health Champion; thanks hard-working NHS staff and all those who have contributed to the progress to date; welcomes the commitment from the Scottish Government to work with women and girls across Scotland in developing the next iteration of the plan, and thanks everyone who has contributed their lived experience to the priorities of the Women's Health Plan.

Annie Wells moved amendment S6M-15382.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-15382 in the name of Jenni Minto (The Women's Health Plan 2021-2024 - Progress and Next Steps), leave out from “acknowledges” to end and insert “agrees that 17 years of Scottish National Party (SNP) administration mismanagement of healthcare in Scotland has worsened longstanding health inequalities faced by women and girls, while challenges facing women's health services continue to go unaddressed; notes that thousands of women across Scotland have missed out on life-saving screenings for breast and cervical cancer, and that some breast cancer screening centres are at risk of being downgraded or closed entirely under drastic NHS budget cuts by the Scottish Government; further notes that women in the west of Scotland have been forced to pay for their own ovarian cancer treatment due to long and unacceptably high delays; believes that the Scottish Government has failed to recognise and address the underlying preventable factors that contribute to poor mental health for women and girls; notes that the SNP administration made the decision to cut the mental health budget by nearly £20 million for 2024-25, despite the number of people in Scotland who reported to have a mental health condition doubling between 2011 and 2022; acknowledges that women's life expectancy is lower than it was before the COVID-19 pandemic, with Scotland ranked 22 out of 29 European nations for female lifespan in the 10 years up to 2022; urges the Scottish Government to restore the provision of consultant-led maternity services in rural areas, such as Moray and Caithness, so that women are no longer forced to travel hundreds of miles away from home to give birth; believes that the Scottish Government should abandon its proposed centralisation plans for specialist neonatal units in NHS Scotland, which includes downgrading services at University Hospital Wishaw, Ninewells Hospital in Dundee, and Victoria Hospital in Kirkcaldy, potentially endangering the lives of vulnerable babies and placing additional stress on new and expectant mothers alike; calls on the Scottish Government to prioritise women's reproductive health, as it currently takes an average of 8.5 years for a woman to get an official diagnosis for endometriosis, despite the fact that one in 10 women in Scotland live with this debilitating condition; believes that the Scottish Government should take steps to reduce cardiology waiting lists, which are at a record high in Scotland, as women are more likely than men to receive the wrong cardiac diagnosis and will receive half as many heart treatments; criticises the SNP administration for continuing to put gender ideology before the safety of women and girls by backing Rape Crisis Scotland, despite an independent review discovering that survivors were being let down, and calls on the Scottish Government to address the specific healthcare needs of women, ensuring that Scotland's NHS is efficient, reliable and accessible for all women, always.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 48 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 67 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 5).

Carol Mochan moved amendment S6M-15382.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-15382 in the name of Jenni Minto (The Women's Health Plan 2021-2024 - Progress and Next Steps), insert at end “; is concerned by the slow progress in addressing stubbornly high health inequalities experienced by women, and calls on the Scottish Government to

ensure that the next plan sets out concisely when and how each of its actions will be fully implemented across Scotland.”

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

The motion, as amended, was then agreed to (DT).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament acknowledges the longstanding health inequalities faced by women and believes that it is vital that services and health outcomes are improved for women and girls; notes the progress made through implementation of the Women’s Health Plan as a first step towards addressing these inequalities, in particular the appointment and work of the first Women’s Health Champion; thanks hard-working NHS staff and all those who have contributed to the progress to date; welcomes the commitment from the Scottish Government to work with women and girls across Scotland in developing the next iteration of the plan; thanks everyone who has contributed their lived experience to the priorities of the Women’s Health Plan; is concerned by the slow progress in addressing stubbornly high health inequalities experienced by women, and calls on the Scottish Government to ensure that the next plan sets out concisely when and how each of its actions will be fully implemented across Scotland.

5. Revision to Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-15430—That the Parliament agrees to the following revision to the programme of business for Thursday 14 November 2024—

delete

2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.30 pm Portfolio Questions: Education and Skills

and insert

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Education and Skills

followed by Ministerial Statement: Ministerial Events

The motion was agreed to.

6. Decision Time: The Parliament took a decision on item 4 as noted above.

7. Protecting Communities from Antisocial Behaviour and Antisocial Driving: The Parliament debated S6M-15156 in the name of Alex Cole-Hamilton— That the Parliament notes with concern that many communities in Scotland, including those in the Edinburgh Western constituency such as South Queensferry, have been affected by antisocial behaviour and antisocial driving; understands that this kind of behaviour can have an impact on quality of life, businesses and community spaces; notes with concern the findings of the report, *Still living a nightmare: Understanding the experiences of victims of anti-social behaviour*, which

has been published by Baroness Newlove and highlights the severe impact of unresolved antisocial behaviour on victims across the UK, including significant mental health issues; acknowledges and notes praise for the Silent Crime campaign for its work in raising awareness of what it believes are these often overlooked issues; recognises the hard work undertaken by Police Scotland and local authorities to tackle this behaviour, particularly around antisocial driving, and notes calls for the Scottish Government to create a national taskforce, which can examine and identify targeted measures to address this behaviour, including whether legislation can be tightened.

The meeting closed at 5.59 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
12 November 2024

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 12 November 2024—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 65th Report, 2024 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 12th November 2024 (SP Paper 682)

Subordinate Legislation

Negative Instruments

The following instruments was laid before the Parliament on 8 November 2024 and are subject to the negative procedure—

Food Safety (Sampling and Qualifications) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2024 (SSI 2024/326)

laid under section 48(3) of the Food Safety Act 1990

Building (Scotland) Amendment (No. 2) Regulations 2024 (SSI 2024/327)

laid under section 54 of the Building (Scotland) Act 2003

Feed Additives (Authorisations) and Uses of Feed Intended for Particular Nutritional Purposes (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2024 (SSI 2024/330)

laid under Article 18A(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 and section 84(2) of the Agriculture Act 1970

Laid Only Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 8 November 2024 and is not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Act of Sederunt (Rules of the Court of Session 1994, Sheriff Appeal Court Rules 2021 and Ordinary Cause Rules 1993 Amendment) (Taxation of Judicial Expenses) 2024 (SSI 2024/323)

laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 11 November 2024 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Bòrd na Gàidhlig Aithisg Bhliadhnail is Cunntasan Annual Report & Accounts 23-24 (SG/2024/285) laid under paragraph 9 of schedule 1 of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 and section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Scottish Sentencing Council Business Plan 2024-27 (SG/2024/264) laid under section 12(7) of the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 12 November 2024 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Social Security Scotland Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (SG/2024/81) laid under Section 22 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000 and Part 15 The Companies Act 2006

Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 - Progress Report 2023-2024 (SG/2024/275) laid under section 20 and section 87 of the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018

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