



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 35, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 2 October 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 Health and Social Care were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.
- 2. Housing Emergency:** Anas Sarwar moved S6M-14719—That the Parliament believes that the Scottish Government has failed to respond adequately to the housing emergency that the Parliament declared in May 2024.

The Minister for Housing (Paul McLennan) moved amendment S6M-14719.4—

As an amendment to motion S6M-14719 in the name of Anas Sarwar (Housing Emergency), leave out from “believes” to end and insert “agrees that Scotland is in a housing emergency; notes the Scottish Government’s ongoing work with partners, including COSLA and the Housing to 2040 Board, on priorities in tackling the housing emergency; highlights the Scottish Government’s commitment to provide £80 million across 2024-25 and 2025-26 to support acquisitions and bring empty social homes back into use, bringing the Affordable Housing Supply Programme investment to almost £600 million this year, and its commitment to £100 million for 2,800 mid-market rent homes; welcomes the investment of £22 million in affordable housing through charitable bonds and the launch of a planning hub to improve capacity and skills; notes the Housing (Scotland) Bill, which includes key measures on preventing homelessness, including action through rent controls, and calls on the UK Government to reverse the 9% capital budget cut, to permanently uprate local

housing allowance to the 30th percentile of local rents, and to scrap the so-called bedroom tax in its Autumn Budget.”

Miles Briggs moved amendment S6M-14719.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-14719 in the name of Anas Sarwar (Housing Emergency), insert at end “, following repeated calls from charities and local authorities to take urgent action to alleviate rising cases of homelessness and to tackle Scotland's affordable housing shortage; notes that homelessness in Scotland has climbed to its worst level in more than a decade, with over 40,000 applications, and that, out of the 33,619 households assessed as homeless, there were over 15,000 children recorded; recognises that housing is a wholly devolved issue that the Scottish National Party (SNP) administration has mismanaged and exacerbated through rent controls and financial mismanagement, such as cutting £200 million from the housing budget; believes that by working together with developers, local authorities and landlords, more houses could be made available to buy and rent across Scotland; acknowledges that the SNP administration's cladding remediation scheme has yet to complete work on any affected properties in Scotland and has only spent £9 million of the £97 million given by the UK Government to fix unsafe cladding; understands that the Scottish Government has failed to provide financial support for residents living in properties built with reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) that are at risk; notes that the SNP administration has presided over a collapse in the housebuilding sector, with a 17% decrease in all sector starts and completions in 2023-24; echoes the concerns expressed around land supply and the planning system, and that the Scottish Government has failed to produce a clear plan setting out how it will properly fund and implement the policies contained within the fourth National Planning Framework (NPF4), and calls on the Scottish Government to take responsibility by addressing this national emergency.”

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 60 (including 4 proxy votes), Against 54 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 8). As a result, amendment S6M-14719.2 was pre-empted.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 59 (including 4 proxy votes), Against 55 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 8).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament agrees that Scotland is in a housing emergency; notes the Scottish Government's ongoing work with partners, including COSLA and the Housing to 2040 Board, on priorities in tackling the housing emergency; highlights the Scottish Government's commitment to provide £80 million across 2024-25 and 2025-26 to support acquisitions and bring empty social homes back into use, bringing the Affordable Housing Supply Programme investment to almost £600 million this year, and its commitment to £100 million for 2,800 mid-market rent homes; welcomes the investment of £22 million in affordable housing through charitable bonds and the launch of a planning hub to improve capacity and skills; notes the Housing (Scotland) Bill, which includes key measures on preventing

homelessness, including action through rent controls, and calls on the UK Government to reverse the 9% capital budget cut, to permanently uprate local housing allowance to the 30th percentile of local rents, and to scrap the so-called bedroom tax in its Autumn Budget.

3. Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Bill: Timetable and Suspension and Variation of Standing Orders: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-14742—That, subject to the Parliament's agreement to the general principles of the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Bill, the Parliament agrees, for the purposes of further consideration of the Bill, that—

(a) consideration of the Bill at stage 2 be completed by Tuesday 29 October 2024;

(b) Stage 3 proceedings take place on Tuesday 5 November 2024;

(c) Rule 9.5.3A be suspended;

(d) Rule 9.5.3B be suspended;

(e) Rule 9.6.3A be suspended;

(f) Rule 9.7.8A be suspended;

(g) Rule 9.7.8B be suspended;

(h) Rule 9.7.9 be suspended;

(i) Rule 9.7.9A be suspended;

(j) Rule 9.10.2 be varied to replace the words “fourth sitting” where they first appear with “sixth”, so that the deadline for lodging a stage 2 amendment will be the sixth day before proceedings; and

(k) Rule 9.10.2A be varied to replace the word “fifth” where it first appears with “second”, so that the deadline for lodging a stage 3 amendment will be the second sitting day before proceedings.

The motion was agreed to.

4. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-14732—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 8 October 2024

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Challenge Poverty Week

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 9 October 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 Green 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 10 October 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 Stage 1 Debate: Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Bill

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 29 October 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 30 October 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 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 31 October 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 Finance and Public Administration Committee Debate: Scotland's Commissioner Landscape

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 7 October 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. Stage 2 Timetable: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-14733—That the

Parliament agrees that consideration of the Police (Ethics, Conduct and Scrutiny) (Scotland) Bill at stage 2 be completed by 11 October 2024.

The motion was agreed to.

6. Stage 2 Timetable: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-14734—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Scottish Elections (Representation and Reform) Bill at stage 2 be completed by 15 November 2024.

The motion was agreed to.

7. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-14735—That the Parliament agrees that the Plant Health (Import Inspection Fees) (Scotland) Amendment (No. 2) Regulations 2024 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

8. Designation of Lead Committee: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-14736—That the Parliament agrees that the Criminal Justice Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the Criminal Justice Modernisation and Abusive Domestic Behaviour Reviews (Scotland) Bill at stage 1.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

9. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 2, 7 and 8 as noted above.

10. Regulation of the Medical Aesthetics Industry in Scotland: The Parliament debated S6M-14436 in the name of Stuart McMillan—That the Parliament notes the belief that legislation must be introduced to regulate those operating within the medical aesthetics industry because, at present, only clinics that employ healthcare professionals to offer treatments such as Botox and dermal fillers are regulated by Healthcare Improvement Scotland; considers that this means that lay injectors who are not qualified healthcare professionals are not monitored or regulated by any professional body; recognises the reported growth in demand for medical aesthetics, including in the Greenock and Inverclyde constituency, and believes that regulating the sector would help to improve patient safety; acknowledges the reported physical, mental and emotional impact on members of the public who have endured botched experiences at the hands of lay injectors, and the impact that this can have on the NHS, which, it understands, is where people typically turn to for correctional treatment; considers that these treatments should therefore only be offered to people aged over 18, and that patients should be able to expect that the individual offering these treatments is regulated, and welcomes, therefore, the recent announcement by the Minister for Public Health and Women's Health that the Scottish Government will launch a consultation later in 2024, which, it understands, will include proposals on introducing legislation to regulate the sector in the current parliamentary session.

The meeting closed at 6.08 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
2 October 2024

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 2 October 2024—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 58th Report, 2024 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 1st October 2024 (SP Paper 652)

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 2 October 2024 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Free-Range Egg Marketing Standards (Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2024 [draft]

laid under section 9(4) of the Agriculture (Retained EU Law and Data) (Scotland) Act 2020

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 2 October 2024 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Crofting Commission's Annual Report and Accounts 2023/24 (SG/2024/128) laid under Section 2B and Schedule 1, paragraph 19 of the Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993

HMICS Thematic inspection of police response to missing persons in Scotland (HMICS/2024/07) laid section 79(3) of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012

Healthcare Improvement Scotland Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (SG/2024/230) laid under Section 22 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

National Waiting Times Centre Board (Known as NHS Golden Jubilee) Annual Report and Consolidated Accounts for Year ended 31 March 2024 (SG/2024/227) laid under Section 22 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

NHS Education for Scotland Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (SG/2024/229) laid under Section 22 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

NHS 24 2023-24 Annual Report and Accounts For the year ended 31 March 2024 (SG/2024/228) laid under Section 22 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

NHS Western Isles Annual Report and Accounts for the Year ended 31st March 2024 (SG/2024/226) laid under Section 22 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Tayside Health Board Annual Report and Accounts For Year Ended 31 March, 2024 (SG/2024/225) laid under Section 22 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

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