



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 39, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 10 October 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. Challenge Poverty Week 2024:** The Parliament debated S6M-14683 in the name of Paul O'Kane— That the Parliament recognises Challenge Poverty Week 2024, which is coordinated by the Poverty Alliance, Scotland's anti-poverty network, and runs from 7 to 13 October; notes that activities, events and actions will take place across Scotland, including in the West Scotland region, which will be aimed at increasing public support for tackling poverty and highlighting the realities of, and solutions to, poverty; acknowledges that Challenge Poverty Week 2023 was the biggest yet, with over 500 organisations taking part; notes that the week emphasises the need for fair funding for the third sector and the importance of a number of key policy asks, including across housing, transport, adequate incomes and food, to help unlock people from the grip of poverty; understands that 21% of people, and 24% of children, are living in the grip of poverty; notes the view that governments, elected members, civil society and communities all have a role to play in solving poverty; is concerned that particular groups of people, including women, lone parents, disabled people and people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds, are disproportionately experiencing poverty; considers that people in Scotland believe in compassion, justice and ending poverty; celebrates the work undertaken by organisations and communities across Scotland to stem what it sees as the rising

tide of poverty, and notes the calls for MSPs to attend and support events and activities in their constituencies and regions as part of what it believes is this important campaign.

**4. Portfolio Questions:** Questions on Education and Skills were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and a Minister.

**5. Ministerial Statement:** The Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs (Angela Constance) made a statement and answered questions on Scotland's Prison Population.

**6. Ministerial Statement:** The Lord Advocate (Rt Hon Dorothy Bain KC) made a statement and answered questions on Prosecution Guidance on Public Safety and Prison Population.

**7. Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Bill:** The Acting Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy (Gillian Martin) moved S6M-14836—That the Parliament agrees to the general principles of the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Bill.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 94 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 0, Abstentions 7).

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

The meeting closed at 5.36 pm.

**David McGill**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
10 October 2024

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

**Other Documents**

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 10 October 2024 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**Consultation Draft of Proposed Amendments to Annex A of the JFS (SG/2024/251)** laid under Paragraph 3(1) of Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the Fisheries Act 2020

**Heat in Buildings: Progress report 2024 (SG/2024/145)** laid under Section 62 of Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

**National Records of Scotland Annual Report and Accounts 2023-2024 (SG/2024/176)** laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

**The Scottish Consolidated Fund Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (SG/2024/196)** laid under the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000 - Section 20 subsection 6

**The Scottish Government Consolidated Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (SG/2024/195)** laid under the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000 - Section 20 subsection 6

**The 2023/24 audit of the Scottish Government Consolidated Accounts (SG/2024/197)** laid under the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000 - Section 20 subsection 6

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