



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 29, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 18 September 2024

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Constitution, External Affairs and Culture, and Parliamentary Business, and then on Justice and Home Affairs, were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and a Minister.

2. Creating a Modern, Diverse, Dynamic Scotland: The First Minister (John Swinney) moved S6M-14524—That the Parliament agrees that the Scottish Government should use all its powers to build a modern, diverse, dynamic nation, and further agrees that it is only with all the powers of a normal independent nation that Scotland would truly be enabled to take its own decisions to fully meet the needs of the people of Scotland and create their best future.

Douglas Ross moved amendment S6M-14524.4—

As an amendment to motion S6M-14524 in the name of John Swinney (Creating a Modern, Diverse, Dynamic Scotland), leave out from “the Scottish Government” to end and insert “Scotland is a modern, diverse, dynamic nation as part of the UK, and believes that the Scottish Government should use all its powers to improve the lives of people who live in Scotland by prioritising health, education and the other devolved functions, and accept the result of the independence referendum of 18 September 2014, when Scotland voted to remain part of the UK.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 30, Against 96 (including 4 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

Anas Sarwar moved amendment S6M-14524.5—

As an amendment to motion S6M-14524 in the name of John Swinney (Creating a Modern, Diverse, Dynamic Scotland), leave out from “with all the powers” to end and insert “through change in 2026, and governments focused on delivering through cooperation rather than conflict, that the needs of the people of Scotland will be fully met and their best future created.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 56 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 70 (including 3 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

Ross Greer moved amendment S6M-14524.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-14524 in the name of John Swinney (Creating a Modern, Diverse, Dynamic Scotland), insert at end “; for example, by establishing a constitutional convention to allow the people of Scotland to decide matters such as whether they wish to retain the monarchy or adopt an elected head of state, by becoming a voice for peace and rejecting nuclear weapons, by re-joining the EU, by treating asylum seekers with humanity, and by committing to fairly tax wealth and rejecting 'trickle-down' economics to invest in a rapid and just transition to net zero.”

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 70 (including 3 proxy votes), Against 56 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0).

Alex Cole-Hamilton moved amendment S6M-14524.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-14524 in the name of John Swinney (Creating a Modern, Diverse, Dynamic Scotland), leave out from “, and further agrees” to end and insert “by focusing on what really matters to the people of Scotland, including fixing the NHS to ensure fast access to treatment, GPs, dentists and world-class mental health services, lifting up Scottish education, delivering a fair deal for carers, stopping sewage being dumped in rivers and growing Scotland's economy.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 56 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 70 (including 3 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

Ash Regan moved amendment S6M-14524.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-14524 in the name of John Swinney (Creating a Modern, Diverse, Dynamic Scotland), insert at end “, and considers that, 10 years on from the Scottish independence referendum, the next democratic opportunity must be set, with a commitment to use the Scottish Parliament election list vote as a plebiscite for the people of Scotland to demonstrate their constitutional choice for independence.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 1, Against 125 (including 4 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 68 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 56 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament agrees that the Scottish Government should use all its powers to build a modern, diverse, dynamic nation, and further agrees that it is only with all the powers of a normal independent nation that Scotland would truly be enabled to take its own decisions to fully meet the needs of the people of Scotland and create their best future, for example, by establishing a constitutional convention to allow the people of Scotland to decide matters such as whether they wish to retain the monarchy or adopt an elected head of state, by becoming a voice for peace and rejecting nuclear weapons, by re-joining the EU, by treating asylum seekers with humanity, and by committing to fairly tax wealth and rejecting 'trickle-down' economics to invest in a rapid and just transition to net zero.

3. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-14534—That the Parliament—

(a) the following programme of—

Tuesday 24 September 2024

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Ministerial Statement: Health and Social Care Winter Preparedness Plan 2024-25

followed by Scottish Government Debate: The UK Budget - Scotland's Priorities

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 25 September 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 Education, Children and Young People Committee Debate: Additional Support for Learning

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 26 September 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 Debate: Scotland Stands with Ukraine

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 1 October 2024

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Aggregates Tax and Devolved Taxes Administration (Scotland) Bill

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 2 October 2024

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands; Health and Social Care

followed by Scottish Labour 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 3 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: Social Justice

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 23 September 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.

Douglas Ross moved amendment S6M-14534.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-14534 in the name of Jamie Hepburn (Business Programme), leave out—

“2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.30 pm Portfolio Questions: Net Zero and Energy, and Transport”

and insert—

“2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Net Zero and Energy, and Transport

followed by Ministerial Statement: Delivering on the Votes of the Parliament on 11 September 2024 to Provide Free School Meals to All Primary School Children in the Current Parliamentary Session and to End Peak Rail Fares”.

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to (by division: For 57, Against 69, Abstentions 0).

The motion was agreed to.

4. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-14535—That the Parliament agrees that the Companies Act 2006 (Scottish public sector companies to be audited by the Auditor General for Scotland) Order 2024 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

5. Substitution on Committees: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-14536—That the Parliament agrees that—

Jackie Dunbar be appointed to replace Stuart McMillan as the Scottish National Party substitute on the Education, Children and Young People Committee;

Stuart McMillan be appointed to replace Jackie Dunbar as the Scottish National Party substitute on the Criminal Justice Committee;

Christine Grahame be appointed to replace Karen Adam as the Scottish National Party substitute on the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee, and

Gordon MacDonald be appointed to replace James Dornan as the Scottish National Party substitute on the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

6. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 2, 4 and 5 as noted above.

7. 10 Years since Scotland's Independence Referendum: The Parliament debated S6M-14344 in the name of Lorna Slater—That the Parliament notes that 18 September 2024 marks 10 years since the referendum on Scottish independence; recognises what it considers to be the historic level of democratic engagement during the campaign, which, it understands, resulted in the highest voter turnout since universal suffrage; understands that support for Scottish independence has consistently polled at 45% to 50% of Scotland's population in the decade since; considers that the Scottish Parliament has been undermined in recent years by the UK Government, including through Brexit, the United Kingdom Internal Market Act 2020, and the use of an order under section 35 of the Scotland Act 1998; welcomes the commitments made by both the Scottish Government and the recently elected UK Government to reset the relationship between the two governments, but considers that it remains unclear whether either government has set out what would constitute such a reset, and notes the belief that the Parliament and the people of Scotland, including those in the Lothian region, must have the opportunity to shape any improved relationship, including by establishing how the people of Scotland could progress a legal route to independence if that is their wish.

The meeting closed at 6.26 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
18 September 2024

Appendix

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 18 September 2024—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 53rd Report, 2024 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 17th September 2024 (SP Paper 644)

Other Documents

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 18 September 2024 is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Scottish Public Services Ombudsman: Compendium of Case Reports for September 2024 (SPSO/2024/09) laid under Sections 15(1) and 15(1A) of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002

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