



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 30, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 19 September 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. Addressing Retail Crime and Antisocial Behaviour:** The Parliament debated S6M-14053 in the name of Sharon Dowey—That the Parliament notes the view that addressing retail crime and antisocial behaviour should be a priority for both the Scottish and UK governments; acknowledges and deplores the reported significant increase in abuse and violence towards shop workers and rise in shoplifting, which it understands is often the main factor behind abuse and threats, with official data reportedly showing a 21% annual increase in shoplifting incidents; understands that the British Retail Consortium's latest crime survey reveals that there are 1,300 incidents of violence or abuse against retail workers daily, double the number prior to the COVID-19 pandemic; expresses concern over the reported £1.8 billion cost of retail theft in the last reporting year and the £1.2 billion spent by shops on crime prevention measures such as CCTV and body-worn cameras; highlights what it sees as the importance of the Protection of Workers (Retail and Age-restricted Goods and Services) (Scotland) Act 2021 in improving visibility and legal protection for retail workers in Scotland, including in the South Scotland region; notes the Scottish Retail Consortium's call for a greater prioritisation of retail crime by government and law enforcement; further notes the calls on the Scottish Government to provide the police and courts the necessary direction and resources to prosecute offenders; notes the

calls for better reporting of incidents by retailers to ensure a fuller picture of the problem, and further notes what it sees as the need for public communication campaigns to explain any new mandated rules on the selling of regulated products in store, which can often be a common trigger for flashpoints, and to make clear that poor customer behaviour will not be tolerated.

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

**5. Ministerial Statement:** The Acting Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy (Gillian Martin) made a statement and answered questions on Greenhouse Gas Emissions 2021-2022.

**6. Ministerial Statement:** The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills (Jenny Gilruth) made a statement and answered questions on Scottish Government Response to the Independent Review of Qualifications and Assessment.

**7. Judicial Factors (Scotland) Bill:** The Minister for Victims and Community Safety (Siobhian Brown) moved S6M-14485—That the Parliament agrees to the general principles of the Judicial Factors (Scotland) Bill.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**8. Motion Without Notice:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved without notice that, under Rule 11.2.4, Decision Time be brought forward to 4.43 pm.

The motion was agreed to.

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

The meeting closed at 4.44 pm.

**David McGill**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
19 September 2024

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

**Committee Reports**

The following reports were published on 19 September 2024—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 54th Report, 2024 (Session 6): Delegated powers in the Aggregates Tax and Devolved Taxes Administration (Scotland) Bill (as amended at Stage 2) (SP Paper 646)

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee, 10th Report, 2024 (Session 6): Report on the Environmental Protection (Single-Use Vapes) (Scotland) Regulations 2024 (draft) (SP Paper 648)

**Subordinate Legislation**

**Affirmative Instruments**

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 19 September 2024 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Coronavirus (Recovery and Reform) (Scotland) Act 2022 (Extension of Temporary Justice Measures) Regulations 2024 [draft]  
laid under section 54(3) of the Coronavirus (Recovery and Reform) (Scotland) Act 2022

**Negative Instruments**

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 19 September 2024 and is subject to the negative procedure—

Coronavirus (Recovery and Reform) (Scotland) Act 2022 (Early Expiry of Provisions) Regulations 2024 (SSI 2024/246)  
laid under section 54 of the Coronavirus (Recovery and Reform) (Scotland) Act 2022

**Other Documents**

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 19 September 2024 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**Proposed extension of the temporary justice provisions in the Coronavirus (Recovery and Reform) (Scotland) Act 2022 - Statement of Reasons (SG/2024/180)** laid under Section 52 of the Coronavirus (Recovery and Reform) (Scotland) Act

**Scotland's Colleges 2024 (AGS/2024/05)** laid under the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000



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