



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 31, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 24 September 2024

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

- 1. Time for Reflection:** Reverend Moira McDonald, Minister, Corstorphine Old Parish Church, led Time for Reflection.
- 2. Topical Questions:** Questions were answered by Cabinet Secretaries.
- 3. Ministerial Statement:** The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care (Neil Gray) made a statement and answered questions on Health and Social Care Winter Preparedness Plan 2024-25.
- 4. The UK Budget – Scotland’s Priorities:** The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government (Shona Robison) moved S6M-14614—That the Parliament recognises the importance of the UK Budget on 30 October 2024 to Scotland’s budget; supports the call from prominent economists, including Professor Mariana Mazzucato, Professor Anton Muscatelli, Lord Gus O’Donnell and Professor Simon Wren-Lewis, for the UK Government to use the forthcoming UK Budget to halt “the under-investment that has resulted in a vicious circle of stagnation and decline, whereby low investment leads to both a weaker economy and greater social and environmental problems”; calls on the Chancellor of the Exchequer to replace the current austerity fiscal rules that the UK Government is operating under, in order to allow for greater investment to renew and enhance public infrastructure and deliver projects that support the transition to net zero; believes that the UK Government should reverse its cut to the Winter Fuel Payment, as this cut will impact many of the most vulnerable older people in society, and urges the UK Government to use its first Budget to remove the two-child limit on benefits and deliver greater investment to

tackle child poverty, and deliver a sizeable increase in investment in the NHS and schools, which would deliver consequential for application in these vital public services in Scotland.

Murdo Fraser moved amendment S6M-14614.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-14614 in the name of Shona Robison (The UK Budget - Scotland's Priorities), leave out from “supports” to end and insert “acknowledges the crucial role of the previous UK Conservative administrations in securing the largest ever block grants for Scotland, in curtailing inflation, guiding the country through and out of the COVID-19 pandemic, protecting businesses through the furlough scheme, and in providing non-domestic rates relief, which the Scottish National Party (SNP) administration chose not to pass on to businesses in Scotland; credits the Conservative administration for ensuring consistent economic growth for the UK, frequently outpacing the rest of the G7, and protecting UK pensions; notes that the current UK Labour administration, despite this legacy, has created a budget deficit by paying above-inflation pay awards to the public sector; condemns the UK Labour administration for scrapping the Winter Fuel Payment, thereby putting 900,000 Scottish pensioners in Scotland at risk this winter, and acknowledges the legacy of 17 years of economic mismanagement by the SNP administration in Scotland, which has resulted in stagnant growth, high taxes, underinvestment, spending cuts, and difficulties in attracting skilled workers to Scotland.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 28, Against 80 (including 3 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

Daniel Johnson moved amendment S6M-14614.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-14614 in the name of Shona Robison (The UK Budget - Scotland's Priorities), leave out from “recognises” to end and insert “believes that Scotland's priorities were reflected in the overwhelming mandate that the people of Scotland gave to the Labour Party on 4 July 2024; recognises that the new UK Labour administration inherited a black hole of £22 billion from the previous Conservative administration; understands that the only way to deliver fairness and opportunity for people is to fix the foundations of the economy; welcomes the renewed commitment from the Chancellor of the Exchequer that there will be no return to austerity; calls on the Scottish Government to work with the UK Government to ensure that the benefits of economic stability and the opportunities of national renewal are felt across Scotland, and further calls on the Scottish Government to reflect the importance of financial competence, economic stability and transparency in its management of Scotland's finances.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 10, Against 98 (including 3 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

Lorna Slater moved amendment S6M-14614.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-14614 in the name of Shona Robison (The UK Budget - Scotland's Priorities), insert at end “; believes that, whilst the fiscal levers available to the Scottish Government are inadequate to fully protect public services and communities from UK Government austerity, it must use every power available to address the urgent social, economic and environmental challenges that Scotland faces, and calls, therefore, on the Scottish Government to explore all avenues to fiscal sustainability, including maximal use of existing tax powers, a review of tax reliefs and other subsidies, reform of local government finances, and the creation of new local revenue raising powers, such as the carbon emissions land tax and cruise ship levy, and to reprioritise spending away from programmes that undermine its core missions of tackling child poverty and the climate emergency.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 6, Against 43, Abstentions 59 (including 3 proxy votes)).

Alex Cole-Hamilton moved amendment S6M-14614.4—

As an amendment to motion S6M-14614 in the name of Shona Robison (The UK Budget - Scotland's Priorities), leave out from “importance of” to end and insert “terrible state of the public finances caused by the mismanagement of the previous UK Conservative administration; believes that the top priority of the new Labour administration's first UK Budget must be fixing the NHS and social care crisis so that people across the UK can get the care that they need; considers that it would not be right to further squeeze households that have seen their living standards fall, and believes that a fair deal would see the removal of the two-child limit on benefits, the reversal of the cut to the Winter Fuel Payment, and tax revenues raised in a fair way, including by reversing the previous Conservative administration's tax cuts for the big banks, closing loopholes in capital gains tax exploited by the top 0.1% wealthiest people, and taxing the social media giants so that they pay their fair share.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 4, Against 45, Abstentions 59 (including 3 proxy votes)).

The motion was then agreed to ((DT) by division: For 65 (including 3 proxy votes), Against 42, Abstentions 0).

**5. Revision to Business:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn) moved S6M-14639— That the Parliament agrees to the following revisions to the programme of business for Thursday 26 September 2024—

delete

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: The Princess Alexandra Eye Pavilion

The motion was agreed to.

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

**7. Edinburgh Children's Hospital Charity:** The Parliament debated S6M-12935 in the name of Martin Whitfield— That the Parliament congratulates Edinburgh Children's Hospital Charity on what it considers to be a successful first six months of its No Time To Wait campaign, which launched a pilot wellbeing and resilience service, The Haven, in September 2023 in Tranent, East Lothian, as an intervention to avert the potential mental health crisis facing children and young people in Scotland; notes that, since it opened, there have been 1,264 visits to The Haven, of which 274 were unique visitors who were directly supported by the service; understands that the service is fully funded by the charity, and aims to complement child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) and to help prevent problems escalating to the point where professional intervention is needed; notes reports that Scotland's mental health crisis affects children across Scotland, impacting their childhoods, their futures and their families' lives, and further notes the belief that, without access to effective early intervention, there is a risk that the mental health problems of Scotland's children today become the mental health problems of the adults of tomorrow.

The meeting closed at 5.51 pm.

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

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

**Committee Reports**

The following reports were published on 20 September 2024—

Social Justice and Social Security Committee, 10th Report, 2024 (Session 6): Stage 1 Report on Housing (Scotland) Bill: Part 5 (homelessness prevention) and Part 6 (other housing matters – fuel poverty) (SP Paper 645)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 55th Report, 2024 (Session 6): Delegated powers in the Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill at Stage 1 (SP Paper 647)

The following report was published on 24 September 2024—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 56th Report, 2024 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 24th September 2024 (SP Paper 649)

**Legislative Consent Memorandums**

The following memorandums were lodged on 24 September 2024—

Shirley-Anne Somerville, Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice: Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Renters' Rights Bill (UK Parliament legislation) (LCM-S6-49)

Kate Forbes, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic: Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Product Regulation and Metrology Bill (UK Parliament legislation) (LCM-S6-50)

**Subordinate Legislation**

**Affirmative Instruments**

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 20 September 2024 and are subject to the affirmative procedure—

Upper Tribunal for Scotland Bus Registration Appeals (Composition) Regulations 2024 [draft]

laid under section 79(2)(c) of the Tribunals (Scotland) Act 2014

Upper Tribunal for Scotland (Transfer of Functions of the Transport Tribunal) Regulations 2024 [draft]

laid under section 79(2)(b) of the Tribunals (Scotland) Act 2014

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 23 September 2024 and are subject to the affirmative procedure—

Town and Country Planning (Amendment of National Planning Framework) (Scotland) Regulations 2024 [draft]  
laid under section 275(7BA) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997

Masterplan Consent Area Scheme (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2024 [draft]  
laid under section 5(2) of the UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Continuity) (Scotland) Act 2021

### **Negative Instruments**

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 20 September 2024 and are subject to the negative procedure—

Building (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2024 (SSI 2024/247)  
laid under 54 of the Building (Scotland) Act 2003

Public Service Vehicles (Registration of Local Services) (Bus Services Improvement Partnerships Service Standards Decisions) (Appeals) (Scotland) Regulations 2024 (SSI 2024/248)  
laid under section 134 of the Transport Act 1985 and sections 60 and 61 of the Public Passenger Vehicles Act 1981

Upper Tribunal for Scotland (Bus Registration Appeals Rules of Procedure) Regulations 2024 (SSI 2024/249)  
laid under paragraph 5 of schedule 9 of the Tribunals (Scotland) Act 2014

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 23 September 2024 and are subject to the negative procedure—

Town and Country Planning (Amendment of Local Development Plan) (Scotland) Regulations 2024 (SSI 2024/250)  
laid under section 275 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 and section 61 of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019

Town and Country Planning (Masterplan Consent Areas) (Scotland) Regulations 2024 (SSI 2024/253)  
laid under section 275 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997

### **Laid Only Instruments**

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 23 September 2024 and is not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 (Commencement No. 14) Regulations 2024 (SSI 2024/252 (C.21))  
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 20 September 2024 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**The Report of the Independent Reviewer - Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Act 2019 (SG/2024/209)** laid under section 21(2) of the Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Act 2019

**Transport Scotland Annual Report and Accounts 2023-24 (SG/2024/79)** laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 24 September 2024 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland Annual Report 2023-24 (SG/2024/207)** laid under Section 82(3) of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012

**Scottish National Adaptation Plan 2024 – 2029 (SG/2024/201)** laid under section 53 of the Climate Change Act 2009

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