



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 101, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 23 April 2025

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. UK Government Welfare Reforms: The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice (Shirley-Anne Somerville) moved S6M-17242—That the Parliament calls on the UK Labour administration to immediately scrap its damaging social security reforms, as announced in the Pathways to Work: Reforming Benefits and Support to Get Britain Working Green Paper; highlights the UK Government's own impact analysis, which shows that 250,000 people, including 50,000 children, will be pushed into poverty under these plans, and notes the Resolution Foundation's report that lower-income households are set to become £500 a year poorer, following the UK Government's Spring Statement 2025.

Liz Smith moved amendment S6M-17242.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-17242 in the name of Shirley-Anne Somerville (UK Government Welfare Reforms), leave out from "calls" to end and insert "notes the most recent concerns highlighted by both the Office for Budget Responsibility and the Scottish Fiscal Commission about the projected substantial increases in UK and Scottish welfare budgets, the resulting fiscal pressures, and the unsustainability of these budgets in the current economic circumstances, and expresses its deep concern that neither the UK Government nor the Scottish Government has delivered policies that will

address the high levels of economic inactivity or policies that will promote sustained economic growth."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 27, Against 82 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 5).

Paul O'Kane moved amendment S6M-17242.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-17242 in the name of Shirley-Anne Somerville (UK Government Welfare Reforms), leave out from "calls" to end and insert "agrees that any reforms to social security policy must respect the dignity of work, while also being fair and protecting the most vulnerable who are unable to work; notes the Pathways to Work: Reforming Benefits and Support to Get Britain Working Green Paper and that its proposals are currently under consultation; recognises that a number of the areas covered in the Green Paper are devolved to the Scottish Parliament and will therefore not change as a result of the Spring Statement; notes the proposals within the Green Paper to support and encourage people into good work and to reduce bureaucracy for those in receipt of social security; welcomes that this is backed up by a £1 billion commitment for employability services across the UK; acknowledges that well-paid, secure work is the most sustainable route out of poverty; welcomes, therefore, the action taken by the UK Labour administration to increase the National Living Wage and improve rights for workers through the Employment Rights Bill, and is concerned that the disability employment gap in Scotland is wider than elsewhere in Great Britain, that one in four people in Scotland rely on welfare spending from the Scottish Government to cover their living costs and that there are as many as 84,000 young people in Scotland who are not in work, education or training."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 14, Against 100 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 73 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 40, Abstentions 0).

3. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-17268—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 29 April 2025

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Supporting Scottish Industry During Turbulent Economic Times

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 30 April 2025

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 1 May 2025

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's Hydrogen Future

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 6 May 2025

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 7 May 2025

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

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

followed by Scottish Government Business

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 8 May 2025

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 28 April 2025, 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.

4. Committee Meeting Times: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-17269—That the Parliament agrees that, under Rule 12.3.3B of Standing Orders, the Education, Children and Young People Committee can meet, if necessary, at the same time as a meeting of the Parliament between approximately 1.30 pm and 5.00 pm on Tuesday 13 May and Tuesday 20 May 2025.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

5. Committee Meeting Times: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-17270— That the Parliament agrees that, under Rule 12.3.3B of Standing Orders, the Social Justice and Social Security Committee can meet, if necessary, at the same time as a meeting of the Parliament between 2.00 pm and 5.00 pm on Tuesday 29 April 2025.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

6. Designation of Lead Committee: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-17271— That the Parliament agrees that the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the Commissioner for Older People (Scotland) Bill at stage 1.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

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

8. Global Intergenerational Week 2025: The Parliament debated S6M-16869 in the name of Jackie Dunbar—That the Parliament notes that Global Intergenerational Week runs from 24 to 30 April 2025; understands that the campaign originally started at a local level, grew to a national event and is now a global celebration in its sixth year; recognises that the aim of it is to inspire individuals, groups, organisations, local and national government, as well as non-government organisations, to fully embrace Intergenerational Week, which, it believes, will help connect people of all ages, particularly the younger and older generations; commends the work of Generations Working Together, which works in partnership with organisations from across the UK to promote intergenerational working across the country; recognises that this year's theme is intergenerational learning and aims to highlight the findings of the World Health Organization's Global Report on Ageism, which outlines the negative impact of ageism on society and recommends education as a key strategy to address it; understands that, for the first time, Generations Working Together welcomes a Global Intergenerational Week sponsor in global life sciences, the company, Bayer AG; recognises what it sees as the importance of intergenerational working in helping to create a fairer society, and welcomes all intergenerational work that has taken place, not only across Aberdeen Donside, but Scotland as a whole.

The meeting closed at 5.44 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
23 April 2025

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

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 23 April 2025—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 26th Report, 2025 (Session 6): Delegated powers in the Dog Theft (Scotland) Bill at Stage 1 (SP Paper 771)

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee, 6th Report, 2025 (Session 6): Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee report on the Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2025 (SP Paper 772)

Subordinate Legislation

Document subject to approval

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 23 April 2025 and is subject to parliamentary approval—

SPSO Statement of Complaints Handling Principles [draft]
laid under section 16A of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 23 April 2025 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

City of Glasgow College Annual Report and Accounts 2023-24 (SG/2025/48) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Glasgow Clyde College Annual Report and Financial Statements for Year Ending 31 July 2024 (SG/2025/54) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Glasgow Colleges Regional Board Annual Report and Consolidated Financial Statements 2023-24 (SG/2025/55)

Glasgow Kelvin College Annual Report & Financial Statements 2023 - 2024 (SG/2025/56) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

HM Fire Service Inspectorate in Scotland - The Chief Inspector's Plan 2025-2028 (SG/2025/83) laid at the request of a member of the Scottish Government and not under any laying power

North East Scotland College Financial Statements for the year to 31 July 2024 (SG/2025/59) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

UHI Moray Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2024 (SG/2025/58) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

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