



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 3, No. 55, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 5 December 2023

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

- 1. Time for Reflection:** Professor Joe Goldblatt, Chair of Edinburgh Interfaith Association, led Time for Reflection.
- 2. Topical Questions:** Questions were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and a Minister.
- 3. Ministerial Statement:** The Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans (Graeme Dey MSP) made a statement and answered questions on Post School Education and Skills Reform.
- 4. Championing Disability Equality and Human Rights:** The Minister for Equalities, Migration and Refugees (Emma Roddick) moved S6M-11537—That the Parliament notes the ambition for Scotland to be a world leader in both the legislation for, and realisation of, human rights; recognises the disproportionate impact that the COVID-19 pandemic and the cost of living crisis continue to have on disabled people's human rights and equality; welcomes the action being taken across the Scottish Government, including reopening the Independent Living Fund in Scotland, with an initial investment of £9 million, and a commitment to develop and implement an Immediate Priorities Plan for Disabled People; notes the recent consultation on a Human Rights Bill to incorporate economic, social and cultural rights and rights for disabled people into Scots law, which, if effectively implemented, will help secure a life of dignity for all, including the most marginalised and disadvantaged; reaffirms the values of Scotland's National Performance Framework outcomes for disabled people, including protecting human rights, allowing people to live free from

discrimination, and creating a fairer, more inclusive Scotland, and commits to listening to the lived experience and expertise of disabled people and to sharing policy development and decision-making in a genuinely inclusive and participatory manner.

Miles Briggs moved amendment S6M-11537.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-11537 in the name of Emma Roddick (Championing Disability Equality and Human Rights), insert “; expresses concern over the number of families, children and disabled people in temporary accommodation; calls on the Scottish COVID-19 Inquiry to investigate the failings of Scottish ministers during the pandemic such as instances of disabled people being moved out of hospital without family decision-making, and disabled people having their care and independent support packages cut or suspended, and further calls on the Scottish Government to ensure that all those in receipt of Adult Disability Payment and Personal Independence Payment are also entitled to claim Social Security Scotland's Winter Heating Payment, to deliver the Coming Home Implementation recommendations for young people with learning disabilities and complex care needs being held inappropriately in hospital settings, to support and deliver Anne's Law and Calum's Law, and to fully implement and deliver Frank's Law.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 52, Against 65, Abstentions 0).

Paul O'Kane moved amendment S6M-11537.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-11537 in the name of Emma Roddick (Championing Disability Equality and Human Rights), leave out from “recognises” to end and insert “acknowledges that the Scottish Human Rights Commission has warned that the Scottish Government has not done enough to ensure that disabled people's human rights are fully realised; is deeply concerned that disabled people's organisations believe that the gap in political leadership has led to disabled people feeling deprioritised and dehumanised; notes the Scottish Government's commitment to develop and implement an Immediate Priorities Plan for Disabled People, which was promised in June 2023; believes that the repeated delays in addressing the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and cost of living crisis have hampered the ability of disabled people to recover from the effects that they have suffered; notes that the Scottish Government has failed to implement the recommendations of the Independent Review of Adult Social Care in Scotland in full, and urges the Scottish Government to belatedly provide its Immediate Priorities Plan with the political resource and leadership that it has, until now, lacked.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 50, Against 64, Abstentions 3).

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 68, Against 50, Abstentions 0).

**5. Motion Without Notice:** The Minister for Cabinet and Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved without notice that, under Rule 11.2.4, Decision Time be brought forward to 4.52pm.

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

**7. Future Island and Rural Transport Infrastructure:** The Parliament debated S6M-11367 in the name of Beatrice Wishart—That the Parliament acknowledges what it sees as the importance of connectivity in Scotland’s rural and island areas; recognises Scotland’s net zero targets, which were voted for by the Parliament; notes the reportedly high output of carbon emissions from ferries serving Scotland’s islands; believes that reliable transport infrastructure is essential for local communities, providing social and cultural benefits, as well as underpinning local economies and tourism; notes the recommendation of the second Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2) to investigate potential fixed link connections, such as tunnels, along ferry routes on the Sound of Harris, the Sound of Barra, and between Mull and the Scottish mainland; further notes comments made by the then Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport, on 20 January 2022, that fixed links on these routes “could improve communities’ access to goods and services and make those islands more attractive for people to live and work in and visit”; understands that tunnels to connect communities on the Shetland Islands were deemed out of scope of STPR2 by Transport Scotland; acknowledges the creation of Shetland’s grassroots tunnel action groups, made up of community members advocating the potential advantages of tunnels to connect the isles, and notes that some of these groups are crowdfunding for technical surveys; understands that there is support among stakeholders for opportunities to explore the benefits of short subsea tunnels in Shetland, and notes the calls for a fixed link to replace the ferry on the Corran Narrows.

The meeting closed at 5.50 pm.

**David McGill**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
5 December 2023

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

**Subordinate Legislation**

**Documents Subject to Approval**

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 4 December 2023—

Code of Practice for the Welfare of Pigs (Revocation) (Scotland) Notice 2023 (SG/2023/304)  
laid under section 37(7)(a) of the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006

**Affirmative Instruments**

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 4 December 2023 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2024 [draft]  
laid under section 51(3) of the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006

**Negative Instruments**

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 5 December 2023 and are subject to the negative procedure—

Gender Recognition (Disclosure of Information) (Scotland) Order 2023 (SSI 2023/364)  
laid under section 24(5) of the Gender Recognition Act 2004

Prisons and Young Offenders Institutions (Scotland) Amendment Rules 2023 (SSI 2023/366)  
laid under section 42(2) of the Prisons (Scotland) Act 1989

**Laid Only Instruments**

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 4 December 2023 and are not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Amendment Order 2023 (SSI 2023/361)  
laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022 (Commencement No. 1) Amendment Regulations 2023 (SSI 2023/362 C.24)  
laid under section 30 of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

## **Other Documents**

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 5 December 2023 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**Architecture & Design Scotland Annual Report and Accounts for the Year Ending 31 March 2023 (SG/2023/297)** laid under Section 19(4) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

**The 2022/23 Audit of NHS Forth Valley (SG/2023/271)** laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

**British Wool Marketing Board Report and Accounts 30 April 2023 (SG/2023/310)** laid under Section 30 of the Agricultural Marketing Act 1958

**Care Inspectorate Annual Report and Accounts 2022/23 (SG/2023/94)** laid under schedule 11 section 15(2) of the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 and section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

**Community Justice Scotland Annual Report and Accounts 2022-23 (SG/2023/242)** laid under Section 11(4) of the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016

**Forth Valley NHS Board Annual Report and Accounts 2022/23 (SG/2023/210)** laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

**Quality Meat Scotland Annual Report and Accounts For the 12 Months to 31 March 2023 (SG/2023/309)** laid under Section 22 (5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000 and Article 12 of the Quality Meat Scotland Order 2008

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