



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 3, No. 61, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 19 December 2023

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

- 1. Time for Reflection:** Rev Dan Robertson, Minister, Davidson's Mains Parish Church, led Time for Reflection.
- 2. Topical Questions:** Questions were answered by a Cabinet Secretary.
- 3. Ministerial Statement:** The Cabinet Secretary for Finance (Shona Robison) made a statement and answered questions on Scottish Budget 2024-25.
- 4. Ministerial Statement:** The Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy (Elena Whitham) made a statement and answered questions on Implementing the Medication Assisted Treatment Standards.
- 5. From a Warm Scots Welcome to a Warm Scots Future for Ukrainians in Scotland:** The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice (Shirley-Anne Somerville) moved S6M-11696—That the Parliament condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the illegal Russian war against Ukraine; reiterates its firm solidarity with the people and government of Ukraine; pays tribute to the significant contribution made by the organisations, people and communities across Scotland that have opened their hearts and their homes to support Ukrainians to settle in Scotland; welcomes the publication of A Warm Scots Future Policy Position Paper, which outlines the Scottish Government's strategic approach to transitioning from an emergency response to Russia's illegal invasion, to a long-term, holistic and rights-based approach that supports the integration of people displaced from Ukraine, so that they have the opportunity to rebuild their lives, play active roles in communities across

Scotland, and fulfil their potential in work and education, and declares unequivocally its position that all Ukrainians who have made Scotland their home are welcome for as long as they need.

Miles Briggs moved amendment S6M-11696.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-11696 in the name of Shirley-Anne Sommerville (From a Warm Scots Welcome to a Warm Scots Future for Ukrainians in Scotland), insert “; expresses concern for the situation being faced by many thousands of displaced Ukrainians and other people living in Scotland, who are currently placed into temporary accommodation; commends the work done by local support groups, which have been established to help support Ukrainians living in Scotland; welcomes the establishment of the Scottish Parliament's Cross-Party Group on Ukraine, and further welcomes the UK Government's unwavering support for Ukraine by issuing visas for almost 250,000 displaced Ukrainians, and by pledging to providing Ukraine with £4.6 billion in military aid, £347 million in humanitarian assistance and £100 million to support the Ukrainian economy.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 53, Against 66, Abstentions 0).

Paul O'Kane moved amendment S6M-11696.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-11696 in the name of Shirley-Anne Somerville (From a Warm Scots Welcome to a Warm Scots Future for Ukrainians in Scotland), after “home are welcome” insert “; applauds ordinary people in Scotland who have worked tirelessly to give Ukrainians fleeing conflict a warm welcome in their own homes; notes with concern that Ukrainians are four times more likely to find themselves facing homelessness than the wider population, and calls on the Scottish Government to ensure that a workable plan is fully implemented to enact long-term strategies to allow Ukrainian refugees to access vital housing, education and healthcare”.

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 53, Against 65, Abstentions 0).

The motion was agreed to (DT).

6. Revision to Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-11722— That the Parliament agrees to the following revisions to the programme of business for Wednesday 20 December 2023—

after

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

insert

followed by Ministerial Statement: A9 Dualling Programme

followed by Ministerial Statement: Scottish Government Response to the Section 35 Order Judicial Review

delete

5.00 pm Decision Time

and insert

5.30 pm Decision Time

The motion was agreed to.

7. Decision Time: The Parliament took a decision on item 5 as noted above.

8. Supporting the Work of the Coalfields Regeneration Trust: The Parliament debated S6M-09747 in the name of Alex Rowley—That the Parliament notes the publication of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Coalfield Communities' report, *Next Steps in Levelling Up the Former Coalfields*; welcomes the recommendations of the report to support the continued development of former coalfield communities; believes that the work of the Coalfields Regeneration Trust is instrumental in the progress seen in Scotland's former coalfield communities; supports what it sees as the success of the Coalfields Regeneration Trust's work in developing community capacity, mentoring, coaching and supporting grassroots organisations to tackle issues in their communities through the Coalfields Investment Programme, and introducing young people from former mining areas to what it understands are the life-changing benefits of sport, through Game On, which is the Trust's Sport for Change programme, among other initiatives; notes the reported concerns that the Scottish Government plans to make what has been described as a significant cut of £100,000 from the Coalfields Regeneration Trust's funding of £750,000; further notes the Coalfields Regeneration Trust's characterisation of this planned cut as "a devastating blow to communities" such as Kincardine and former coalfields communities across Mid Scotland and Fife; understands that the Coalfields Regeneration Trust's funding has been frozen at £750,000 since 2011, and considers that had this amount kept pace with inflation, it would currently be worth £1,034,658; further understands that a proposed cut of the Coalfields Regeneration Trust's funding in 2011 was reversed due to the damaging impact this would have had on Scotland's former coalfield communities; notes the calls for the Scottish Government to reconsider any cut to the Coalfields Regeneration Trust's funding on the same basis, and to support the future success of the Coalfields Regeneration Trust by offering a secure multi-year funding stream such as that provided by the Welsh Government to the Coalfields Regeneration Trust in Wales.

The meeting closed at 6.51 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
19 December 2023

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

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 19 December 2023—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 76th Report, 2023 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 19 December 2023 (SP Paper 496)

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee, 21st Report, 2023 (Session 6): Report on appointments to the Scottish Land Commission (SP Paper 499)

Subordinate Legislation

Document Subject to Approval

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 15 December 2023—

Draft Funeral Director Code of Practice (SG/2023/300)
laid under section 97 of the Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Act 2016

Legislative Consent Memorandums

The following memorandum was lodged on 15 December 2023—

Angela Constance, Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs:
Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Investigatory Powers (Amendment) Bill (UK Parliament legislation) (LCM-S6-40)

The following memorandum was lodged on 19 December 2023—

Mairi Gougeon, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands:
Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Bill (UK Parliament legislation) (LCM-S6-41)

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 15 December 2023 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited - Annual Report and Accounts for the year to 31 March 2023 (SG/2023/273) laid under section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Forestry and Land Scotland Annual Report and Accounts 2022-2023 (SG/2023/247) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

GTC Scotland Annual Report and Financial Statements – Year to 31 March 2023 (GTCS/2023/01) laid under Schedule 3, para 5(1) of the Public Services Reform (General Teaching Council for Scotland) Order 2011

Scottish Water Interim Report and Accounts 2023: Performance and Prospects For the six months to 30 September 2023 (SG/2023/315) laid at the request of a member of the Scottish Government and not under any laying power

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 18 December 2023 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Bòrd na Gàidhlig Aithisg Bhlìadhnaì is Cunntasan Annual Report & Accounts 22-23 (SG/2023/278) laid under paragraph 9 of schedule 1 of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 and section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Historic Environment Scotland Annual Report and Financial Statements 2022-23 (SG/2023/171) laid under Section 14(3) of Schedule 1 of the Historic Environment Scotland Act 2014

UK Sport Annual Report 2022-23 (SG/2023/263) laid under Section 88 of the Scotland Act 1998

VisitScotland Group Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (SG/2023/286) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Vulnerable Witnesses Act - Section 9 Report (SG/2023/189) laid under Section 9 of the Vulnerable Witnesses (Criminal Evidence) (Scotland) Act 2019

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 19 December 2023 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Cairngorms National Park Authority Annual report and accounts 2022/23 (SG/2023/321) laid under section 26(5) of the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 and section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Carbon Assessment of the Scottish Budget 2024-25 (SG/2023/267) laid under Section 94 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

Scotland's Fiscal and Economic Forecasts– December 2023 (SFC/2023/6) laid under section 5(2) of the Scottish Fiscal Commission Act 2016

NatureScot Annual Report and Accounts 2022/23 (SG/2023/322) laid under section 10 of the Natural Heritage (Scotland) Act 1991

Police Investigations and Review Commissioner's Annual Report and Accounts 2022/23 (SG/2023/302) laid under Section 43(5) of the Police Public Order and Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2006

Scottish Budget 2024-25 (SG/2023/317) laid at the request of a member of the Scottish Government and not under any laying power

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service 2022/23 Annual Audit Report (SG/2023/320) laid under section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Annual Report and Accounts 22/23 (SG/2023/308) laid under Section 42A (1) of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005

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