



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 58, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 10 December 2024

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

- 1. Time for Reflection:** Sila Collins-Walden, Quaker, led Time for Reflection.
- 2. Topical Questions:** Questions were answered by Cabinet Secretaries.
- 3. Ministerial Statement:** The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills (Jenny Gilruth) made a statement and answered questions on 2025 National Improvement Framework and Long-term Strategy for Scottish Education.
- 4. Judicial Factors (Scotland) Bill - Stage 3:** The Bill was considered at Stage 3.

The following amendments were agreed to (without division): 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30.

**5. Judicial Factors (Scotland) Bill:** The Minister for Victims and Community Safety (Siobhian Brown) moved S6M-15783—That the Parliament agrees that the Judicial Factors (Scotland) Bill be passed.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 119 (including 3 proxy votes), Against 0, Abstentions 0).

**6. Pathways to Global Human Rights: Towards a Stronger Human Rights Culture in Scotland:** The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice (Shirley-Anne Somerville) moved S6M-15782—That the Parliament recognises 10 December 2024

as Human Rights Day; supports this year's theme of "Our Rights, Our Future, Right Now"; agrees that human rights present a route to a more peaceful, equitable and sustainable world; recognises that this year marks the 75th anniversary of the formation of the Council of Europe, and supports its vital mission to uphold human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Europe; celebrates important steps to advance rights in Scotland, including the commencement of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024; commends the role of human rights organisations, human rights defenders and wider civil society in driving change and challenging everyone to do better, and reaffirms its own commitment to strengthen, respect, protect and fulfil human rights through both practical action and future legislation.

Tess White moved amendment S6M-15782.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-15782 in the name of Shirley-Anne Somerville (Pathways to Global Human Rights: Towards a Stronger Human Rights Culture in Scotland), leave out from "that this year" to end and insert "the important work of bodies, organisations and charities in Scotland, across the UK and around the world that act to uphold human rights and protect those who are vulnerable; acknowledges the steps to advance rights in Scotland, including the commencement of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024; notes, however, concerns among civil society regarding the Scottish Government's engagement over the draft Disability Equality Plan, as well as other measures to improve and progress human rights in Scotland, which, it believes, the Scottish Government has not delivered; highlights a report from the Scottish Human Rights Commission published in November 2024, which emphasises the 'significant' human rights challenges for people in rural and remote areas of Scotland; recognises that a number of women's groups continue to have serious concerns about the Scottish Government's approach to the rights and safety of women and children; calls on the Scottish Government to work in a careful and considered way with public bodies and the third sector, in light of recent criticism over the way that it has engaged on policy matters, and urges it to take urgent and meaningful action on issues affecting human rights, including Scotland's national housing emergency and access to vital public services such as health and social care."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 28, Against 89 (including 3 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

The motion was then agreed to (DT).

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

**8. Opposition to the Post Office Closure Plan:** The Parliament debated S6M-15654 in the name of Kenneth Gibson—That the Parliament notes the opposition to the proposal set out in the Post Office's Transformation Plan on 13 November 2024 to consult on closing its 115 remaining crown branches; understands that these proposals would involve the closure of 10 branches in Scotland, including the branch

in Saltcoats town centre; notes the opposition of the Communication Workers Union, which has characterised the proposal as being “as tone deaf as it is immoral”; believes that crown branches provide a range of vital services that are not available in all Post Offices; notes the view that, at a time when more and more shops and services are leaving the high street, there is a case for more crown branches, not fewer, and conveys its sympathy to the estimated 1,000 Post Office employees whose jobs are now at risk.

The meeting closed at 5.49 pm.

**David McGill**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
10 December 2024

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

**Committee Reports**

The following reports were published on 10 December 2024—

Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee, 8th Report, 2024  
(Session 6): Stage 1 Report on the Disability Commissioner (Scotland) Bill  
(SP Paper 705)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 75th Report, 2024 (Session  
6): Delegated powers in the Welfare of Dogs (Scotland) Bill (as amended at  
Stage 2) (SP Paper 706)

**Subordinate Legislation**

**Negative Instruments**

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 6 December 2024 and is  
subject to the negative procedure—

Conservation of Salmon (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2024  
(SSI 2024/368)

laid under section 68(2) of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries  
(Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 2003

**Laid Only Instruments**

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 9 December 2024 and is  
not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Housing (Cladding Remediation) (Scotland) Act 2024 (Commencement) Regulations  
2024 (SSI 2024/370 (C. 24))

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 9 December 2024 and  
are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**Community Justice Scotland Annual Report and Accounts 2023/24**  
**(SG/2024/178)** laid under Section 11(4) of the Community Justice (Scotland) Act  
2016

**Highlands and Islands Enterprise Annual Report and Accounts 2023/24**  
**(SG/2024/199)** laid under Section 30 of the Enterprise and New Towns (Scotland)  
Act 1990

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 10 December 2024 and  
are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**Food Standards Scotland: Annual Report & Accounts 2023/24 (SG/2024/73)** laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

**The 2023/24 audit of the Water Industry Commission for Scotland (SG/2024/302)** laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

**Water Industry Commission for Scotland - Annual Report and Accounts 2023-24 (SG/2024/281)** laid under Section 5(4) of the Water Industry (Scotland) Act 2002 and Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

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