



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 3, No. 82, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 27 February 2024

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

**1. Time for Reflection:** Carol Telfer, Chaplain of Glasgow Hospice, Marie Curie, led Time for Reflection.

**2. Topical Questions:** Questions were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and a Minister.

**3. Ministerial Statement:** The Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs (Angela Constance) made a statement and answered questions on Scotland's Prison Population.

**4. Budget (Scotland) (No. 3) Bill – Stage 3:** The Bill was considered at Stage 3.

The following amendments were agreed to (without division): 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7.

**5. Budget (Scotland) (No. 3) Bill:** The Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance (Shona Robison) moved S6M-12295—That the Parliament agrees that the Budget (Scotland) (No. 3) Bill be passed.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 68, Against 55, Abstentions 1).

**6. Revision to Business Programme:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-12318—That the Parliament agrees to the following revisions to the programme of business for

(a) Wednesday 28 February 2024—

delete

*followed by* Ministerial Statement: Working Towards a Tobacco Free Scotland by 2034 and Tackling Youth Vaping

after

*followed by* Scottish Government Debate: Local Government Finance (Scotland) Order 2024

insert

*followed by* Referral Back to Lead Committee at Stage 1: National Care Service (Scotland) Bill

(b) Thursday 29 February 2024—

delete

2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.30 pm Portfolio Questions: Education and Skills

and insert

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Education and Skills

*followed by* Ministerial Statement: Eljamel and NHS Tayside Public Inquiry and the Independent Clinical Review

The motion was agreed to.

**7. Referral of an of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-12319—That the Parliament agrees that the Local Government Finance (Scotland) Order 2024 [draft] be considered by the Parliament.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

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

**9. McClure Solicitors:** The Parliament debated S6M-11980 in the name of Stuart McMillan—That the Parliament notes with concern the reported failure and subsequent administration of McClure Solicitors in 2021; understands that the firm is believed to have had over 100,000 clients, many of whom held wills or trusts

managed by the firm, and that a significant number of those clients will have lived in the Greenock and Inverclyde constituency, where the firm was originally founded in 1853; further understands that, since entering administration, a substantial portion of the firm's former clients remain unaware of its closure and the transfer of their files to another law firm, Jones Whyte in Glasgow, which, it believes, is obligated to provide such files to former clients at no cost if they do not wish to engage its services; acknowledges that, subsequently to the firm entering administration, a number of former clients have reported discrepancies and irregularities in the work carried out by McClure Solicitors, resulting in the need for substantial rework or correction, often incurring costs amounting to hundreds or even thousands of pounds for the former clients; understands that a number of former clients have lodged complaints with the Scottish Legal Complaints Commission regarding the work carried out by McClure Solicitors, and that some of these complaints have led to compensation orders to recompense those affected; notes the Scottish Parliament's passage of the Trusts and Successions (Scotland) Bill, which is aimed at modernising and improving the creation and management of trusts, and acknowledges the ongoing progress on the Regulation of Legal Services (Scotland) Bill; notes the belief that there should be a formal inquiry in the future to thoroughly examine all aspects of the firm's conduct, its collapse and subsequent events, and to suggest any changes necessary to prevent a recurrence of what it sees as the suffering experienced by many former clients; further notes the belief, however, that the current priority should be assisting those former clients who face substantial legal fees or challenges in selling family homes; notes the encouragement for all MSPs to actively support and assist any of their constituents in need, and further notes the calls for the Scottish Government to consider initiating an information campaign to raise awareness among the potentially thousands of former clients who, it believes, have yet to be informed about the situation and are unaware that their wills, trusts and other legal affairs may not be in order.

The meeting closed at 6.33 pm.

**David McGill**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
27 February 2024

## **Appendix**

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

### **Committee Reports**

The following report was published on 23 February 2024—

Criminal Justice Committee, 1st Report, 2024 (Session 6): Report on the Legislative Consent Memorandum for the Investigatory Powers (Amendment) Bill (UK Parliament legislation) (SP Paper 531)

The following reports were published on 27 February 2024—

Public Audit Committee, 1st Report, 2024 (Session 6): Adult mental health (SP Paper 532)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 14th Report, 2024 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 27 February 2024 (SP Paper 533)

Finance and Public Administration Committee, 2nd Report, 2024 (Session 6): Report on the Land and Buildings Transaction Tax (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Order 2024 (SSI 2024/draft) (SP Paper 534)

### **Subordinate Legislation**

#### **Negative Instruments**

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 23 February 2024 and is subject to the negative procedure—

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme (Amendment) Order 2024 (SI 2024/192)

laid under section 48 of the Climate Change Act 2008

#### **Laid Only Instruments**

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 23 February 2024 and are not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Social Security (Gibraltar) (Iceland) (Liechtenstein) (Norway) (Further provision in respect of Scotland) Order 2024 (SSI 2024/62)

laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Act 2023 (Commencement No. 1, Transitional and Saving Provisions) Regulations 2024 (SSI 2024/63 (C. 6))  
laid under section 30 of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

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