



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 3, No. 66, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 11 January 2024

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

The meeting opened at 11.40 am.

1. General Questions: Questions were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.

2. First Minister's Questions: Questions were answered by the First Minister (Humza Yousaf).

3. Bank of Scotland Ending Mobile Branch Services across Scotland: The Parliament debated S6M-11518 in the name of Rhoda Grant—That the Parliament regrets the recently announced end of mobile branch services from the Bank of Scotland to several towns and villages across Scotland, including several in the Highlands and Islands region; understands that the end of these services will take effect in May 2024; further understands that, although the Bank of Scotland notes that there has been low use of its banking vans, some rural residents will be left without local banking services and will have to travel several miles to reach such services; believes that this will disproportionately affect elderly people and disabled people who potentially cannot travel or access mobile banking services, and notes the calls for the Bank of Scotland to reconsider these plans or implement alternative plans so that everyone can access suitable bank services easily.

4. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Education and Skills were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and a Minister.

5. Scotland's Public Service Values: The Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance (Shona Robison) moved S6M-11831—That the Parliament

welcomes the Scottish Government's continued investment in delivering public services for Scotland's people and communities; notes, however, the economic damage of Brexit, which means up to £3.7 billion of potential funding for these services has been lost; recognises the Scottish Government's legacy of successful public service reform in recent years that has improved outcomes for people and communities, including health and social care partnerships and Social Security Scotland; further recognises the valuable role that public sector workers play in delivering precious public services; supports the Scottish Government's ambitious public service reform projects in the education, justice and health and social care sectors, which will deliver further reforms over the next decade, including by focusing on prevention and early intervention, involving people and communities in the design of public services and embracing the power of digital technologies; believes that further reform to public services will be necessary to ensure that public services remain fiscally sustainable and continue to improve outcomes for Scotland's people and communities, and welcomes, therefore, constructive contributions from partners across the public sector, third sector and business community, as all stakeholders work to protect and reform Scotland's public services together.

Sandesh Gulhane moved amendment S6M-11831.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-11831 in the name of Shona Robison (Scotland's Public Service Values), leave out from first "welcomes" to end and insert "recognises the valuable role that public sector workers play in delivering vital public services in Scotland; further recognises the urgent need for reform within the public sector for the reasons set out by the Finance and Public Administration Committee; believes that the principles of the Christie Commission remain important, but that the delivery of these principles has been undermined by the economic mismanagement of successive Scottish National Party administrations and the failure to properly support local government, which is on the front line of so many public services, and urges the Scottish Government to implement a comprehensive re-organisation of the Scottish public sector to prioritise efficiency, preventative care and productivity."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 31, Against 81, Abstentions 0).

Michael Marra moved amendment S6M-11831.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-11831 in the name of Shona Robison (Scotland's Public Service Values), leave out from first "welcomes" to end and insert "recognises that communities in Scotland have been let down by the Scottish National Party (SNP) to the extent that poverty is rising, life expectancy is falling and health inequalities are widening, and that the SNP administration has a 16-year record of failure in reforming public services, as highlighted by Audit Scotland, COSLA and other public bodies in the recent Finance and Public Administration Committee inquiry; further recognises that the promises of a healthcare system free at the point of need have been broken by this SNP administration, with almost one in six people in Scotland on waiting lists, whilst £1.2 billion has been wasted on delayed discharge since it promised to eradicate the practice, and that a lack of a credible

workforce plan has resulted in millions being spent every year on agency workers; considers that the botched National Care Service and stalled education reform under this SNP administration are particularly egregious examples of its failure to reform public services; welcomes the invaluable work that public sector workers continue to do, and calls on the Scottish Government to urgently provide clarity to public sector bodies, unions and workers regarding its plans for the public sector workforce; notes that, if Scotland's economy had grown at the same rate since 2012 as the UK overall, it would be £8.5 billion larger, and calls on the Scottish Government to prioritise the delivery of economic growth in all parts of Scotland to create jobs, boost incomes, reduce poverty, and allow for greater investment in, and reform of, public services, including transforming the NHS and social care system to meet the needs of people and communities, and embracing the power of digital technologies.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 48, Against 64, Abstentions 0).

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 64, Against 48, Abstentions 0).

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

The meeting closed at 5.10 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
11 January 2024

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

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 11 January 2024 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Community Care (Personal Care and Nursing Care) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2024 [draft]
laid under section 23(3)(a) of the Community Care and Health (Scotland) Act 2002

Negative Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 11 January 2024 and are subject to the negative procedure—

Non-Domestic Rate (Scotland) Order 2024 (SSI 2024/3)
laid under section 7B(5) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1975

Non-Domestic Rates (Levying and Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2024 (SSI 2024/4)
laid under section 153(6) of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994

Non-Domestic Rates (Transitional Relief) (Scotland) Regulations 2024 (SSI 2024/5)
laid under section 153(6) of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994 and section 14(4) of the Non-Domestic Rates (Scotland) Act 2020

Sea Fish (Prohibition on Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) Order 2024 (SSI 2024/6)
laid under section 20(5) of the Sea Fish (Conservation) Act 1967

Laid Only Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 11 January 2024 and is not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Health (Tobacco, Nicotine etc. and Care) (Scotland) Act 2016 (Commencement No. 6) Regulations 2024 (SSI 2024/1 (C.1))
laid under section 30 of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

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