



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 3, No. 19, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 27 June 2023

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

- 1. Time for Reflection:** Rabbi Aharon Lemberger, assistant Rabbi at Giffnock Newton Mearns Synagogue and Jewish Chaplain for Glasgow and the West of Scotland Universities, led Time for Reflection.
- 2. Topical Questions:** Questions were answered by Cabinet Secretaries.
- 3. Illegal Migration Bill:** The Minister for Equalities, Migration and Refugees (Emma Roddick) moved S6M-09710—That the Parliament agrees that the UK Government's Illegal Migration Bill will negatively affect all those seeking asylum in the UK; notes that clauses 23 and 27 of the Bill together will amend the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015, by placing a restriction on the powers of the Scottish Ministers and removing the entitlement for victims of human trafficking and exploitation to access Scottish Government-funded support services if they have arrived in the UK through irregular means after 7 March 2023; further notes that the Bill's provisions are likely to impact on the ability to support potential victims of human trafficking and, therefore, will impact on the delivery of the Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy and efforts to eliminate human trafficking, as victims may actively avoid identification and associated risks of removal from the UK, and acknowledges that the Scottish Government has not been permitted to lodge a Legislative Consent Memorandum on the UK Government's Illegal Migration Bill in the Scottish Parliament.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 83, Against 28, Abstentions 0).

4. Ministerial Statement: The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice (Shirley-Anne Somerville) made a statement and answered questions on Reconsideration of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill.

5. Building a New Scotland – The Constitution of an Independent Country: The Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture (Angus Robertson) moved S6M-09711—That the Parliament welcomes the publication of Creating a modern constitution for an independent Scotland and the opportunity that it sets out for the people of Scotland to directly shape a new, modern and more democratic country with constitutional safeguards for human rights and based on the constitutional tradition of the sovereignty of the people.

Donald Cameron moved amendment S6M-09711.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-09711 in the name of Angus Robertson (Building a New Scotland - The Constitution of an Independent Country), leave out from “welcomes” to end and insert “recognises that the people of Scotland voted decisively to remain within the United Kingdom in 2014 and that any discussion on a written constitution in an independent Scotland is both academic and hypothetical; deplores the announcement by the First Minister that the Scottish National Party will use the next General Election campaign as an attempt to hold another polarising vote on breaking up the United Kingdom; agrees that another divisive independence referendum is not a priority and is simply an attempt by the Scottish National Party to divert attention away from its poor record in government, and calls on the Scottish Government to focus its time on addressing the pressing issues that Scotland faces day to day, including growing the economy and rebuilding vital public services.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 31, Against 80, Abstentions 0).

Neil Bibby moved amendment S6M-09711.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-09711 in the name of Angus Robertson (Building a New Scotland - The Constitution of an Independent Country), delete from “welcomes” to end and insert “notes the publication of Creating a modern constitution for an independent Scotland; considers that, rather than theoretical future plans, the focus of the Scottish Government should be on the priorities of people living in Scotland, and calls, therefore, on the Scottish Government to deliver a real recovery plan for the NHS to reduce long waits, fix lifeline services for Scotland's island communities, ensure a fair local government funding settlement, and take measures to improve living standards and tackle the cost of living, with a £100 water rebate, a freeze to rail fares and a revamped mortgage rescue scheme.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 44, Against 64, Abstentions 3).

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 64, Against 47, Abstentions 0).

6. Electronic Trade Documents Bill - UK Legislation: The Minister for Small Business, Innovation, Tourism and Trade (Richard Lochhead) moved S6M-09709—That the Parliament agrees that the relevant provisions of the Electronic Trade Documents Bill, introduced in the House of Lords on 12 October 2022 and subsequently amended, so far as these matters fall within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament or alter the executive competence of the Scottish Ministers, should be considered by the UK Parliament.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

7. Revision to Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-09746—That the Parliament agrees to the following revisions to the programme of business for—

(a) Wednesday 28 June 2023—

delete

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Bill (UK Legislation)

after

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Bill

insert

followed by Legislative Consent Motion: Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Bill (UK Legislation)

(b) Thursday 29 June 2023—

after

followed by Ministerial Statement: Leading Scotland's Journey to Becoming a Start-Up Nation

insert

followed by Legislative Consent Motion: Online Safety Bill (UK Legislation)

The motion was agreed to.

8. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 3, 5 and 6 as noted above.

9. Epilepsy Scotland Report, Epilepsy on the Mind: The Parliament debated S6M-09507 in the name of Alasdair Allan—That the Parliament recognises the findings of the Epilepsy Scotland report, Epilepsy on the Mind, on the impact of

epilepsy on mental health, which was published on 16 June 2023; understands that epilepsy is a condition that it is estimated 58,000 people in Scotland, including people in Na h-Eileanan an Iar, are living with, making it one of the most common serious neurological conditions; recognises that this report, which followed a national survey undertaken by over 700 people with epilepsy in Scotland, highlights, in particular, that 54% of responses said that epilepsy has a “significant impact” on their mental health; further recognises that 46% of responses said that they have anxiety, and one in three have depression; notes the recommendation that there needs to be wider-reaching, epilepsy-specific mental health support available in Scotland, and for there to be greater societal understanding, including by employers and education establishments, of epilepsy and how it can affect a person’s life; commends Epilepsy Scotland for its work in conducting the survey and creating this significant report, and considers that the report’s recommendations can improve the lives of people with epilepsy.

The meeting closed at 5.40 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
27 June 2023

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 21 June 2023—

Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee, 6th Report, 2023 (Session 6): The First-tier Tribunal for Scotland Local Taxation Chamber and Upper Tribunal for Scotland (Composition and Procedure) (Miscellaneous Amendment) Regulations 2023 [draft] (SP Paper 408)

The following report was published on 26 June 2023—

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee, 11th Report, 2023 (Session 6): A Modern and Sustainable Ferry Service for Scotland (SP Paper 417)

Subordinate Legislation

Negative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 23 June 2023 and is subject to the negative procedure—

Cereal Seed (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2023 (SSI 2023/193)
laid under Section 16(6) of the Plant Varieties and Seeds Act 1964

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 27 June 2023 and is subject to the negative procedure—

Council Tax Reduction (Scotland) Amendment (No. 2) Regulations 2023 (SSI 2023/197)
laid under section 113(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992

Other Documents

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 26 June 2023 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

General Pharmaceutical Council Annual report, Annual fitness to practise report and Annual accounts 2022/23 (SG/2023/133) laid under Paragraph 7 and 8 of Schedule 1 to the Pharmacy Order 2010

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 27 June 2023 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Transport Scotland: Section 70 Grant Payments In accordance with: Transport (Scotland) Act 2001 Section 70(4) Financial Year 2022-23 (SG/2023/102) laid under Section 70(4) of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2001

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