



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 42, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 31 October 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 (John Swinney).

3. Invasive Non-native Species in Scotland: The Parliament debated S6M-13402 in the name of Audrey Nicoll—That the Parliament notes the publication of the Scottish Environment LINK report, *Invasive Non-native Species in Scotland: A Plan for Effective Action*, which collates the thinking of Scotland's environmental non-governmental organisations regarding invasive non-native species; understands that invasive non-native species constitute one of the five principal direct drivers of global biodiversity loss and that invasive non-native species are among the most significant pressures on Scotland's biodiversity; recognises the reported significant negative impacts that invasive non-native species have for Scotland's marine, terrestrial and freshwater environments, including in the Aberdeen South and North Kincardine constituency; highlights reports of the financial impact of invasive non-native and non-native species on Scotland's economy; notes the view that it is necessary to effectively tackle invasive non-native species as a prerequisite to successful nature restoration in Scotland; believes that the Scottish Government's Nature Restoration Fund is providing critical funds to initiate and develop projects, working with communities and volunteers to prevent the establishment, and control the spread, of invasive non-native species, and considers that this is allowing the recovery of biodiversity across Scotland, including river restoration projects addressing invasive

non-native plants, controlling invasive rhododendron in Scotland's rainforest and safeguarding internationally important seabird islands from non-native mammals through island biosecurity action.

4. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Net Zero and Energy, and Transport were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.

5. Ministerial Statement: The Minister for Housing (Paul McLennan) made a statement and answered questions on Housing (Scotland) Bill.

6. Scotland's Commissioner Landscape: Michael Marra, on behalf of the Finance and Public Administration Committee, moved S6M-15086—That the Parliament welcomes the Finance and Public Administration Committee's 7th Report, 2024 (Session 6), Scotland's Commissioner Landscape: A Strategic Approach (SP Paper 642); agrees with the recommendation that a dedicated committee should be established to carry out a "root and branch" review, with the purpose of creating a clear strategic framework to underpin and provide more coherence and structure to the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) supported body landscape, and further agrees that, while this review is undertaken, there should be a moratorium on creating any new SPCB supported bodies, or expanding the remit of existing bodies.

The Minister for Public Finance (Ivan McKee) moved amendment S6M-15086.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-15086 in the name of Kenneth Gibson (Scotland's Commissioner Landscape), leave out from "and further agrees" to end and insert "which should complete its work by June 2025, and further agrees that, while this review is undertaken, there should be a moratorium on creating any new SPCB supported bodies, or expanding the remit of existing bodies, while recognising that, for proposals within bills that have already been introduced, these are now for the Parliament to take a decision on, respecting the lead committees' roles in scrutinising legislation within their remits."

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 84 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 25 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 7).

Sarah Boyack moved amendment S6M-15086.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-15086 in the name of Kenneth Gibson (Scotland's Commissioner Landscape), leave out from "; agrees with" to end and insert "; and notes the recommendation that a dedicated committee should be established to carry out a 'root and branch' review, to be concluded by June 2025, with the purpose of creating a clear strategic framework to underpin and provide more coherence and structure to the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) supported body landscape."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 24 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 92 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

Ross Greer moved amendment S6M-15086.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-15086 in the name of Kenneth Gibson (Scotland's Commissioner Landscape), after "body landscape" insert ", to be concluded no later than June 2025".

After debate, the amendment was pre-empted as a result of amendment S6M-15086.3 being agreed to.

The motion, as amended, was then agreed to ((DT) by division: For 92 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 24 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament welcomes the Finance and Public Administration Committee's 7th Report, 2024 (Session 6), Scotland's Commissioner Landscape: A Strategic Approach (SP Paper 642); agrees with the recommendation that a dedicated committee should be established to carry out a "root and branch" review, with the purpose of creating a clear strategic framework to underpin and provide more coherence and structure to the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) supported body landscape, which should complete its work by June 2025, and further agrees that, while this review is undertaken, there should be a moratorium on creating any new SPCB supported bodies, or expanding the remit of existing bodies, while recognising that, for proposals within bills that have already been introduced, these are now for the Parliament to take a decision on, respecting the lead committees' roles in scrutinising legislation within their remits.

7. Passenger Railway Services (Public Ownership) Bill - UK Legislation: The Cabinet Secretary for Transport (Fiona Hyslop) moved S6M-15088—That the Parliament agrees that all relevant provisions of the Passenger Railway Services (Public Ownership) Bill, introduced in the House of Commons on 18 July 2024, so far as these matters alter the executive competence of the Scottish Ministers, should be considered by the UK Parliament.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 87 (including 3 proxy votes), Against 26, Abstentions 4).

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

The meeting closed at 5.18 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
31 October 2024

Appendix

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

Committee Reports

The following report will be published on 1 November 2024—

Citizen Participation and Public Participation Committee, 2nd Report, 2024
(Session 6): Inquiry into A9 Dualling Project (SP Paper 669)

Subordinate Legislation

Negative Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 31 October 2024 and are subject to the negative procedure—

Town and Country Planning (Fees for Applications) (Scotland) Amendment
Regulations 2024 (SSI 2024/292)
laid under section 275 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997

Diligence against Earnings (Variation) (Scotland) Regulations 2024 (SSI 2024/293)
laid under section 104(1) of the Debtors (Scotland) Act 1987

Firefighters' Pension Schemes (Scotland) Amendment (No. 2) Order 2024 (SSI
2024/295)
laid under section 60(5) of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 31 October 2024 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Environmental Standards Scotland Annual Report and Accounts 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 (ESS/2024/01) laid under the UK Withdrawal for the European Union (Continuity) (Scotland) Act 2021

Report of a review of the retention of biometric data provided for under sections 18 to 19C of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995 (SBC/2024/02) laid under Section 20(2) and 20(3) of the Scottish Biometrics Commissioners Act 2020

The Scottish Civil Estate 2023-24, The fourteenth report on the performance and environmental sustainability of the Scottish Civil Estate (SG/2024/208) laid under Section 76 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

Statutory Report on the use of Continuity Act Power, Report by the Scottish ministers in exercise of the power in section 1(1) of the UK withdrawal from the European Union (continuity) (Scotland) act 2021 for the reporting period 1 September 2023 – 31 August 2024 and the intended future use of the power

under section 1(1) in the upcoming reporting period 1 September 2024-31 August 2025 (SG/2024/276) laid under section 11(1)(a) of the UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Continuity) (Scotland) Act 2021

TS Prestwick Holdco Ltd Annual Report and Financial Statements 31 March 2024 (SG/2024/246) laid under section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Scottish Human Rights Commission Annual Report 2023-24 (SHRC/2024/01) laid under Section 15 of the Scottish Commission for Human Rights Act 2006

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