



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 3, No. 30, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 21 September 2023

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. World Rivers Day 2023:** The Parliament debated S6M-10364 in the name of Jackie Dunbar—That the Parliament marks World Rivers Day 2023, which takes place on 24 September and is a celebration of the world's waterways; commends the organisations, communities and land managers implementing landscape scale initiatives that improve stewardship of rivers; appreciates what it sees as the value of catchment scale initiatives and networks in connecting projects and communities together to maximise the benefits; considers that nature-based solutions, when successfully implemented, can lead to healthy, dynamic, resilient river systems, delivering multiple benefits to interconnected species such as sea trout, Atlantic salmon and freshwater pearl mussels, among others; recognises what it considers the seriousness with which the Scottish Government is treating Scotland's declining salmon stocks; further recognises the Wild Salmon Strategy and its objectives and priority themes; understands the interconnectivity within the ecosystem, where pressures such as water temperature, extreme flow events, nutrient enrichment and pollution can be substantial and cumulative; acknowledges Scottish Water's improving urban waters route map, which is backed by £500 million of investment; understands that SEPA's recent results show that 66% of Scotland's water bodies are in good condition or better, compared with just 16% elsewhere in the UK, and

considers that implementing nature-based solutions can mitigate such pressures, delivering multiple benefits by boosting biodiversity, reducing diffuse pollution and reducing river temperatures in the Aberdeen Donside constituency in Scotland, and in the rest of the UK.

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

5. Tackling Online Child Abuse, Grooming and Exploitation: The Parliament debated Tackling Online Child Abuse, Grooming and Exploitation.

6. Urgent Question: An urgent question, to ask the Scottish Government what impact the Prime Minister's announcement on delaying a range of net zero targets will have on Scotland's target to become net zero by 2045, was answered by the Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero and Just Transition (Màiri McAllan).

7. Decision Time: There were no decisions to take at Decision Time on the items noted above.

The meeting closed at 5.15 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
21 September 2023

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 21 September 2023—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 53rd Report, 2023 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 19 September 2023 (SP Paper 437)

Subordinate Legislation

Negative Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 21 September 2023 and are subject to the negative procedure—

Marriage Between Persons of Different Sexes (Prescribed Bodies) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2023 (SSI 2023/266)
laid under section 28(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

Nutritional Requirements for Food and Drink in Schools (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2023 (SSI 2023/267)
laid under section 133(2) of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980

Council Tax Reduction (Scotland) Amendment (No. 3) Regulations 2023 (SSI 2023/268)
laid under section 113(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992

Legislative Consent Memorandum

The following memorandum was lodged on 21 September 2023—

Neil Gray, Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy:
Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Energy Bill (UK Parliament legislation) (LCM-S6-26b)

Other Documents

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 21 September 2023 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Scottish Forestry Annual Report and Accounts 2022-23 (SG/2023/195) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

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