



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 57 Session 4

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 3 December 2015

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 (Nicola Sturgeon).

**3. Reviewing Arrangements for Managing Sex Offenders:** The Parliament debated S4M-14110 in the name of Paul Martin—That the Parliament notes that it has been more than 11 years since the murder of eight-year-old Mark Cummings by the convicted sex offender, Stuart Leggate, in Royston in Glasgow; commends what it sees as the courage and tenacity of Mark's mother, Margaret-Ann, who has campaigned tirelessly to change the way in which serious sex offenders are managed; recognises that a justice sub-committee, convened by the Parliament in 2006, published 33 recommendations intended to protect children in Scotland's communities, including a requirement for registered sex offenders to disclose information about previous convictions on housing applications; is concerned that this recommendation has still not been implemented by the Scottish Government; understands that there are community concerns about what are considered the disproportionately high number of sex offenders housed in deprived areas and that many people consider it essential for the risks posed by serious sex offenders in communities across Scotland to be examined, and notes calls for an urgent review of sentencing tariffs and increased public awareness of sex offenders thought to be at risk of reoffending.

**4. National Galleries of Scotland Bill:** Anne McTaggart, on behalf of the National Galleries of Scotland Bill Committee, moved S4M-14956—That the Parliament agrees to the general principles of the National Galleries of Scotland Bill and that it should proceed as a private bill.

After debate, the motion was agreed to (DT).

**5. Sea Fisheries and End Year Negotiations:** The Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Food and Environment (Richard Lochhead) moved S4M-15031—That the Parliament notes the forthcoming annual fishing negotiations in Brussels and the ongoing negotiations with Norway on shared stocks; welcomes the recent scientific advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), which proposes increases to many of Scotland’s key stocks, including North Sea cod, which is at its highest level in a decade; notes that 2016 will see the commencement of the discard ban for whitefish fisheries and that the outcome of the negotiations will be pivotal in supporting the fleet’s implementation, and supports the Scottish Government in its efforts to achieve the best possible outcome for Scotland’s fishermen, coastal communities and wider seafood sectors.

Claudia Beamish moved amendment S4M-15031.3 to motion S4M-15031—

After first “stocks” insert—

“; believes that sustainable development should be at the heart of all marine and fisheries policies; further believes that sea fisheries must be managed holistically with a sustainable ecosystem approach that takes into account the marine biodiversity and climate change challenges that Scotland faces to ensure healthy Scottish waters; supports the research and monitoring work of Marine Scotland and its partners, including the fishing industry, in developing scientific evidence for the implementation of the discard ban and for sustainable and profitable fisheries in the future; calls on the Scottish Government to ensure that this work is adequately funded; notes that the new European Maritime Fisheries Fund is designed to help fishermen in any transition period, support coastal communities in diversifying their economies and finance new coastal projects and encourages the widest possible consultation on its guidelines”.

After debate, the amendment was agreed to (DT).

Jamie McGrigor moved amendment S4M-15031.1 to motion S4M-15031—

After “implementation” insert—

“; further notes the significant concerns of fishing industry leaders about the impact of this discard ban on the demersal sector and urges the Scottish Government to consider giving additional support to the sector to help it meet the challenges of the obligation as it is phased in over the next three years”.

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 46, Against 58, Abstentions 0).

Tavish Scott moved amendment S4M-15031.2 to motion S4M-15031—

Insert at end—

“; believes that the December 2015 EU Fisheries Council must ensure that quota allocations for species covered by the introduction of the discard ban in 2016 must increase substantially; notes the widespread concerns of the Scottish industry and processing sector regarding the difficulties of introducing a discard ban in a mixed whitefish fishery governed by quotas and relative stability; notes the importance of Marine Scotland applying enforcement and compliance regimes that are consistent for all EU vessels in Scottish fishing waters; expects the Scottish Government to avoid the gold-plating of regulations imposed on the Scottish fleet that would create both an uneven playing field and increase financial risk to the Scottish industry, and recognises that data-deficient fish stocks should be the subject of scientific research and not arbitrary quota changes”.

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 16, Against 57, Abstentions 31).

The motion, as amended, was then agreed to (DT).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—That the Parliament notes the forthcoming annual fishing negotiations in Brussels and the ongoing negotiations with Norway on shared stocks; believes that sustainable development should be at the heart of all marine and fisheries policies; further believes that sea fisheries must be managed holistically with a sustainable ecosystem approach that takes into account the marine biodiversity and climate change challenges that Scotland faces to ensure healthy Scottish waters; supports the research and monitoring work of Marine Scotland and its partners, including the fishing industry, in developing scientific evidence for the implementation of the discard ban and for sustainable and profitable fisheries in the future; calls on the Scottish Government to ensure that this work is adequately funded; notes that the new European Maritime Fisheries Fund is designed to help fishermen in any transition period, support coastal communities in diversifying their economies and finance new coastal projects and encourages the widest possible consultation on its guidelines; welcomes the recent scientific advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), which proposes increases to many of Scotland’s key stocks, including North Sea cod, which is at its highest level in a decade; notes that 2016 will see the commencement of the discard ban for whitefish fisheries and that the outcome of the negotiations will be pivotal in supporting the fleet’s implementation, and supports the Scottish Government in its efforts to achieve the best possible outcome for Scotland’s fishermen, coastal communities and wider seafood sectors.

**6. Decision Time:** The Parliament took decisions on items 4 and 5 as noted above.

The meeting closed at 5.04 pm.

**P E Grice**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
3 December 2015

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

**Subordinate Legislation**

**Laid only instruments**

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 3 December 2015 and is not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 (Commencement No. 10 and Saving Provision) Order 2015 (SSI 2015/406 (C.51))  
laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

**Committee Reports**

The following report is being published on 4 December 2015—

Finance Committee, 14th Report, 2015 (Session 4): Budget (Scotland) Act 2015 Amendment Regulations 2015 (SP Paper 846)



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