The meeting opened at 1.30 pm.

1. **Garioch Home-Start Celebrates 20 Years**: The Parliament debated S4M-14515 in the name of Alison McInnes—That the Parliament congratulates Garioch Home-Start on its 20th anniversary; notes that the organisation first opened its doors in the Garioch area of Aberdeenshire in April 1995; further notes that Home-Start is a voluntary organisation that offers support to families facing issues such as rural isolation, disability, illness, multiple birth, post-natal depression and family difficulties; recognises what it considers the importance of such projects to families who are facing such issues; further recognises the need for ongoing one-to-one support, such as is provided by Home-Start to families with young children; congratulates the staff and volunteers of the organisation, and wishes them the very best success in the future.

2. **Business Motion**: Joe FitzPatrick, on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S4M-15209—That the Parliament agrees to the following revision to the programme of business for Wednesday 16 December 2015—

   delete

   6.00 pm   Decision Time

   and insert

   6.30 pm   Decision Time
The motion was agreed to.

3. **Portfolio Questions:** Questions on Fair Work, Skills and Training and Social Justice, Communities and Pensioners’ Rights were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.

4. **Ministerial Statement:** The Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Constitution and Economy (John Swinney) made a statement and answered questions on the Draft Budget 2016-17.

5. **Land Reform (Scotland) Bill:** The Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform (Aileen McLeod) moved S4M-15181—That the Parliament agrees to the general principles of the Land Reform (Scotland) Bill.

After debate, the motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 100, Against 15, Abstentions 0).

6. **Land Reform (Scotland) Bill: Financial Resolution:** The Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Food and Environment (Richard Lochhead) moved S4M-15109—That the Parliament, for the purposes of any Act of the Scottish Parliament resulting from the Land Reform (Scotland) Bill, agrees to—

(a) any expenditure of a kind referred to in Rule 9.12.3(b) of the Parliament’s Standing Orders arising in consequence of the Act, and

(b) any charge or payment in relation to which Rule 9.12.4 of the Standing Orders applies arising in consequence of the Act.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

7. **Business Motion:** Joe FitzPatrick, on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S4M-15189—That the Parliament agrees the following programme of business—

Tuesday 5 January 2016

2.00 pm    Time for Reflection

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Topical Questions (if selected)

*followed by* Scottish Government Debate: Supporting Public Services, Tackling Inequality and Growing Scotland’s Economy

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm    Decision Time

*followed by* Members’ Business

Wednesday 6 January 2016
2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions
2.00 pm Portfolio Questions
   Justice and the Law Officers;
   Rural Affairs, Food and Environment

followed by Equal Opportunities Committee Debate: Inquiry into Age and Social Isolation
followed by Business Motions
followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions
5.00 pm Decision Time
followed by Members’ Business

Thursday 7 January 2016
11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions
11.40 am General Questions
12.00 pm First Minister’s Questions
12.30 pm Members’ Business
2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions
2.30 pm Stage 1 Debate: Scottish Elections (Dates) Bill
followed by Stage 1 Debate: Lobbying (Scotland) Bill
followed by Financial Resolution: Lobbying (Scotland) Bill
followed by Business Motions
followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions
5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 12 January 2016
2.00 pm Time for Reflection
followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions
followed by Topical Questions (if selected)
followed by Scottish Government Business
followed by Business Motions
followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions
5.00 pm Decision Time
followed by Members’ Business
Wednesday 13 January 2016

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions
2.00 pm Portfolio Questions
   Health, Wellbeing and Sport
followed by Scottish Government Business
followed by Business Motions
followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions
5.00 pm Decision Time
followed by Members’ Business

Thursday 14 January 2016

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions
11.40 am General Questions
12.00 pm First Minister’s Questions
12.30 pm Members’ Business
2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions
2.30 pm Scottish Government Business
followed by Business Motions
followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions
5.00 pm Decision Time

The motion was agreed to.

8. Approval of SSIs: Joe FitzPatrick, on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved—


S4M-15191—That the Parliament agrees that the Justice of the Peace Courts (Special Measures) (Scotland) Order 2015 [draft] be approved.

S4M-15192—That the Parliament agrees that the Victims’ Rights (Scotland) Regulations 2015 [draft] be approved.

The motions were agreed to (DT).
9. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 5, 6 and 8 as noted above.

The meeting closed at 6.36 pm.

P E Grice  
Clerk of the Parliament  
16 December 2015
Appendix
(Note: this Appendix does not form part of the Minutes)

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 16 December 2015 and are subject to the affirmative procedure—

Welfare Funds (Scotland) Regulations 2016 [draft]
laid under sections 3(4) and 4(5) of the Welfare Funds (Scotland) Act 2015

Dog Fouling (Fixed Penalty) (Scotland) Order 2016 [draft]
laid under section 15(3)(b) of the Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003

Advice and Assistance and Civil Legal Aid (Financial Conditions and Contributions) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2016 [draft]
laid under section 37(2) of the Legal Aid (Scotland) Act 1986

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 16 December 2015 and are not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

The Scottish Consolidated Fund Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2015 (SG/2015/229)—


Scottish Qualifications Authority Annual Report and Accounts 2014-15 (SG/2015/257)—

Cairngorms National Park Authority Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2015 (SG/2015/258)—

Scottish Futures Trust Limited Annual Report and Group Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2015 (SG/2015/216)—
laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Joint Nature Conservation Committee and JNCC Support Co Annual Report and Accounts for Year Ending 31 March 2015 (SG/2015/259)
laid under Paragraph 18(3) of Schedule 4 to the Natural Environmental and Rural Communities Act 2006

Scottish Public Services Ombudsman: Compendium of Case Reports for December 2015 (SPSO/2015/12)
laid under Sections 15(1) and 15(1A) of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002
Final Outturn Report for the Scottish Administration for the year ended 31 March 2015 (SG/2015/252)
laid at the request of a member of the Scottish Government and not under any laying power

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 16 December 2015—


The following report will be published on 17 December 2015—

Education and Culture Committee, 12th Report, 2015 (Session 4): Stage 1 Report on the Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Bill (SP Paper 861)