The meeting opened at 9.15 am.

1. **Business Motion:** Bruce Crawford, on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S4M-03013—That the Parliament agrees that, during Stage 3 of the Alcohol (Minimum Pricing) (Scotland) Bill, debate on groups of amendments shall, subject to Rule 9.8.4A, be brought to a conclusion by the time limit indicated, that time limit being calculated from when the stage begins and excluding any periods when other business is under consideration or when a meeting of the Parliament is suspended (other than a suspension following the first division in the stage being called) or otherwise not in progress:

   Groups 1 to 3: 1 hour 20 minutes.

   The motion was agreed to.

2. **Why Languages Matter, Improving Young People’s Opportunities:** The Minister for Learning, Science and Scotland’s Languages (Dr Alasdair Allan) moved S4M-03004—That the Parliament agrees that, in today’s globalised world, learning other languages is more important than ever and that it is in Scotland’s economic and cultural interests that young Scots are able to speak other languages; notes the report of the Languages Working Group and its recommendation that children should learn another language from primary 1; supports the Scottish Government’s far-sighted and ambitious aim to enable all young people to learn two languages in addition to their mother tongue during their time at school, and welcomes the Scottish Government’s plans for a pilot project programme for 2012-13 to
demonstrate how the aims of the 1+2 Barcelona model of language learning can be turned into a reality in Scotland over the course of two parliamentary sessions.

Neil Findlay moved amendment S4M-03004.1 to motion S4M-03004—

Leave out from “supports” to end and insert—

“acknowledges the decline in language course take-up in secondary schools; recognises that developing language skills from an early age is best supported by well-trained teachers and language assistants; notes that the numbers of both have reduced significantly since 2007, and calls on the Scottish Government to identify how any future roll-out of the proposed pilot projects would be funded to allow all young people to start learning a second language from primary 1.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 55, Against 65, Abstentions 0).

Liz Smith moved amendment S4M-03004.2 to motion S4M-03004—

Insert at end—

“, but recognises that this ambitious programme cannot be achieved without renewed focus on the training of qualified foreign language teachers and without substantially increasing the number of foreign language assistants in Scotland's schools.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 21, Against 99, Abstentions 0).

The motion was then agreed to ((DT) by division: For 85, Against 35, Abstentions 0).

3. General Question Time: Questions were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.

4. First Minister’s Question Time: Questions were answered by the First Minister (Alex Salmond).

5. Themed Question Time: Questions on Infrastructure and Capital Investment, and on Culture and External Affairs were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.

6. Alcohol (Minimum Pricing) (Scotland) Bill - Stage 3: The Bill was considered at Stage 3.

The following amendments were agreed to (without division): 1 and 2.

The following amendments were disagreed to (by division)—

3 (For 33, Against 84, Abstentions 0)
5 (For 35, Against 83, Abstentions 1)
7 (For 50, Against 68, Abstentions 0)
Amendment 6 was moved and, with the agreement of the Parliament, withdrawn.

The following amendments were not moved: 4 and 1A.

7. Alcohol (Minimum Pricing) (Scotland) Bill - Stage 3: The Cabinet for Health, Wellbeing and Cities Strategy (Nicola Sturgeon) moved S4M-02967—That the Parliament agrees that the Alcohol (Minimum Pricing) (Scotland) Bill be passed.

Jackie Baillie moved amendment S4M-02967.1 to motion S4M-02967—

Insert at end—

“but, in so doing, strongly believes that the Scottish Government should bring forward proposals to eliminate the windfall to large retailers arising from the minimum unit price by means of the proposed public health levy or other targeted levy.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 37, Against 82, Abstentions 0).

The motion was then agreed to ((DT) by division: For 86, Against 1, Abstentions 32).

8. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 2 and 7 as noted above.

9. Glasgow Epilepsy Genetics Service: The Parliament debated S4M-02485 in the name of Kenneth Gibson—That the Parliament congratulates what it considers the outstanding work undertaken by the Glasgow Epilepsy Genetics Service, which was established in the Duncan Guthrie Institute of Medical Genetics at RHSC Yorkhill in 2005 with support from the Muir Maxwell Trust; commends Yorkhill for being the principal testing centre for the UK and several other countries; understands that 2,500 individuals have already benefited from a growing number of investigations, currently across six genes, leading to a genetic diagnosis of epilepsy; notes that his work aims to help individuals and families understand the cause of their own or their child’s epilepsy, save unnecessary tests and that it may change clinical management and improve outcomes; applauds this NHS National Services Division-funded service while welcoming further plans to offer a comprehensive genetic panel of epilepsy genes from mid 2012, earlier testing for children and adults, and a Scottish Paediatric Epilepsy Origins and Outcome Study; notes that the service also offers genetic counselling to assist families and individuals in moving forward from their diagnosis, and believes that a greater availability of epilepsy specialist nurses, such as in Ayrshire and Arran, would allow both new and existing cases of epilepsy to benefit from tailored information on taking medications and the opportunity of making informed lifestyle choices to maximise their physical, emotional and mental wellbeing.

The meeting closed at 5.39 pm.

P E Grice
Clerk of the Parliament
24 May 2012