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 (Alex Salmond).

3. **82% of Scots in Favour of Compulsory Microchipping:** The Parliament debated S4M-06981 in the name of Claire Baker—That the Parliament congratulates what it considers the excellent work of Dogs Trust in rescuing, microchipping and rehoming dogs across the UK; understands that there are approximately 3,000 stray dogs in Scotland each year, resulting in a significant burden placed on the budgets of local authorities, including across Mid Scotland and Fife, for kennelling costs; believes that microchipping can assist in reuniting stray dogs with their owners, help to identify those who commit cruelty against animals and improve the accountability of owners of dangerous dogs; acknowledges the recent YouGov poll for Dogs Trust, which suggests that 82% of Scottish adults are in favour of compulsory microchipping of dogs; understands that compulsory dog microchipping is already enforced in Northern Ireland and that England and Wales intend to introduce compulsory microchipping in the near future, and notes calls for compulsory microchipping to be introduced in Scotland.

4. **Scottish Independence Referendum Bill:** The Deputy First Minister (Government Strategy and the Constitution) and Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure,
Investment and Cities (Nicola Sturgeon) moved S4M-07610—That the Parliament agrees to the general principles of the Scottish Independence Referendum Bill.

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

5. **Scottish Independence Referendum Bill: Financial Resolution:** The Deputy First Minister (Government Strategy and the Constitution) and Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities (Nicola Sturgeon) moved S4M-07569—That the Parliament, for the purposes of any Act of the Scottish Parliament resulting from the Scottish Independence Referendum Bill, agrees to 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.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

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

The meeting closed at 5.03 pm.

P E Grice  
Clerk of the Parliament  
12 September 2013
Appendix
(Note: this Appendix does not form part of the Minutes)

Subordinate Legislation

Negative instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 12 September 2013 and are subject to the negative procedure—

Overhead Lines (Exemption) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (SSI 2013/264) laid under section 106 of the Electricity Act 1989

Common Agricultural Policy Single Farm Payment and Support Schemes (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2013 (SSI 2013/265) laid under paragraph 2(2) of Schedule 2 to the European Communities Act 1972

Other documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 12 September 2013 for consultation—

Single Use Carrier Bag Charge (Scotland) Regulations 2014 [draft] (SG 2013/199) laid under section 97(2)(a) of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 for the purposes of a representation period of 90 days required by section 97(3) of that Act

Single Use Carrier Bags Charge (Scotland) Regulations 2014 - Accompanying Statement [draft] (SG 2013/200) laid under section 97(2)(b) of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 12 September 2013 and are not subject to Parliamentary procedure—

Proposed Draft Order – The Single Use Carrier Bag Charge (Scotland) Regulations 2014 (SG/2013/199) laid under Section 97(2)(a) of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 for the purposes of a representation period of 90 days required by section 97(3) of that Act.

The Single Use Carrier Bags Charge (Scotland) Regulations 2014 – Accompanying Statement (SG/2013/200)
laid under section 97(2)(b) of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.

Joint Nature Conservation Committee and JNCC Support Co Annual Report and Accounts for year ending 31 March 2013 (SG/2013/201)
laid under paragraph 18(3) of schedule 4 to the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 and article 6(2)(b) of the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000 (Audit of Non-profit-making Companies) Order 2009.

Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Annual Report and Accounts 2012-2013 (SG/2013/202)
laid under section 26(5) of the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 and section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000.

Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland Annual Report 2012-13 (SG/2013/203)
laid at the request of the Scottish Ministers and not under any laying power.

Ayrshire and Arran Health Board Annual Report and Accounts for the year to 31 March 2013 (SG/2013/173)

Grampian Health Board Annual Accounts 2012-2013 (SG/2013/178)

Dumfries and Galloway NHS Board Annual report and Accounts 2012/13 (SG/2013/178)

Forth Valley NHS Board Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2013 (SG/2013/177)

Borders Health Board Annual Accounts Final 2012/13 (SG/2013/174)
laid under section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000.