



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 25 Session 4

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 13 August 2014

Note: (DT) signifies a decision taken at Decision Time.

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Finance, Employment and Sustainable Growth were answered by the Cabinet Secretary and Ministers.

2. Ministerial Statement: The Cabinet Secretary for Training, Youth and Women's Employment (Angela Constance) made a statement and answered questions on Working Together – Progressive Workplace Policies in Scotland.

3. Welfare: The Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities (Nicola Sturgeon) moved S4M-10777—That the Parliament notes the damaging and destructive impact of the UK Government's welfare policies on women, children, disabled people and communities across Scotland; further notes that the worst of the cuts are still to come and that all three of the main UK unionist parties are determined to pursue this cuts agenda; recognises that an additional 100,000 children will be pushed into poverty, after housing costs, by 2020 as a result of these policies; also recognises that, by 2018, thousands of disability living allowance (DLA) claimants in Scotland will lose some or all their disability benefits as a result of the replacement of DLA with the personal independence payment; welcomes the fact that the Scottish Government has pledged to halt the roll-out of universal credit and personal independence payments, and recognises that only with the full powers of independence can the UK Government welfare cuts be halted.

Jackie Baillie moved amendment S4M-10777.4 to motion S4M-10777—

Leave out from “UK Government’s welfare policies” to end and insert—

“the Conservative and Liberal Democrat coalition’s policies on women, children, disabled people and communities across Scotland; notes Scottish Labour’s record in lifting 200,000 children out of poverty, halving pensioner poverty and leading the parliamentary debate in support of those campaigning to fully mitigate the so-called bedroom tax in Scotland; recognises that this was achieved by using the existing powers of the Parliament and that eradicating poverty requires political will rather than constitutional change; believes that the Scottish Government’s plans for welfare in an independent Scotland lack detail and are uncosted; understands that the Institute for Fiscal Studies noted that there will be a £6 billion deficit in the first parliamentary session following independence, leading to a cut in public services such as schools and hospitals, and therefore believes that those who are poorest will be hardest hit and that the best way of helping people out of poverty is with the return of a Labour government in 2015.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 27, Against 82, Abstentions 0).

Alex Johnstone moved amendment S4M-10777.2 to motion S4M-10777—

Leave out from first “notes” to end and insert—

“supports the UK Government’s welfare reform, which seeks to simplify the welfare system, make it more accessible and make work pay; notes that welfare budgets continue to rise in response to need; supports the UK Government’s commitment to provide better standards of living for people on lower incomes by taking 242,000 Scots out of income tax altogether, and calls on the Scottish Government to provide a detailed cost and funding analysis of its own welfare proposals before the referendum in September.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 17, Against 92, Abstentions 0).

The motion was then agreed to ((DT) by division: For 65, Against 44, Abstentions 0).

4. Business Motion: Joe FitzPatrick, on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S4M-10779—That the Parliament agrees the following programme of business—
Tuesday 19 August 2014

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Revenue Scotland and Tax Powers Bill

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Disabled Persons’ Parking Badges (Scotland) Bill

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

6.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members’ Business

Wednesday 20 August 2014

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions
Justice and the Law Officers;
Rural Affairs and the Environment

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Increasing Opportunities for Women

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 21 August 2014

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

followed by Members' Business

2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Scotland's Future

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 23 September 2014

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 24 September 2014

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions
Health and Wellbeing

followed by Scottish Government Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 25 September 2014

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

followed by Members' Business

2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Scottish Government Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

The motion was agreed to.

5. Approval of SSI: Joe FitzPatrick, on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S4M-10780—That the Parliament agrees that the Scottish Legal Complaints Commission (Modification of Duties and Powers) Regulations 2014 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to. (DT)

6. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 3 and 5 as noted above.

7. A Message for Dearest Scotland: The Parliament debated S4M-10365 in the name of Bill Kidd—That the Parliament congratulates the Dearest Scotland campaign, which was set up to allow the opportunity for people of all ages, from across Scotland and beyond, to write a love letter to Scotland; notes that Dearest Scotland is based in Glasgow Clyde College and run from the Cardonald campus and congratulates Cat Cochrane and her team on putting the campaign together, and acknowledges that it allows young people and old from all over the world to voice their hopes, wishes and aspirations for the future of Scotland and its people,

no matter what the political or constitutional situation is and promotes the opportunity for people to share with each other their beliefs regarding Scotland's future.

The meeting closed at 5.30 pm.

P E Grice
Clerk of the Parliament
13 August 2014

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 13 August 2014—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 47th report 2014 (Session 4):
Revenue Scotland and Tax Powers Bill as amended at stage 2 (SP Paper
581)

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