



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 42 Session 4

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 4 November 2014

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

**1. Time for Reflection:** Reverend Alastair H Symington MA BD, Member of the Kirk Session, Minister Emeritus Troon Old Parish Church and a Chaplain to the Queen in Scotland, led Time for Reflection.

**2. Business Motion:** Joe FitzPatrick, on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S4M-11400—That the Parliament agrees that, during stage 3 of the Historic Environment 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 4:           30 minutes.

The motion was agreed to.

**3. Topical Questions:** Questions were answered by Cabinet Secretaries.

**4. Historic Environment Scotland Bill - Stage 3:** The Bill was considered at Stage 3.

The following amendments were agreed to (without division): 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11.

The following amendments were disagreed to (by division)—

- 1 (For 45, Against 62, Abstentions 0)
- 2 (For 44, Against 65, Abstentions 0).

Amendment 3 was not moved.

**5. Historic Environment Scotland Bill:** The Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs (Fiona Hyslop) moved S4M-11378—That the Parliament agrees that the Historic Environment Scotland Bill be passed.

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

**6. Ministerial Statement:** The Minister for Environment and Climate Change (Paul Wheelhouse) made a statement and answered questions on the Scottish Greenhouse Gas Emissions Annual Target Report 2012.

**7. Town Centre Action Plan – One Year On:** The Minister for Local Government and Planning (Derek Mackay) moved S4M-11386—That the Parliament acknowledges the publication of the report, *Town Centre Action Plan – One Year On*, and notes cross-government delivery against each of the key themes; welcomes the partnership with COSLA and local government in the agreement and adoption of the Town Centre First Principle; is encouraged by the progress being made during the demonstration phase; agrees that local decision-making and delivery, good place-making and a renewed spirit of entrepreneurialism in town centres are key to their social and economic success; acknowledges the growing engagement and wider work underway by councils, communities and business across Scotland; encourages all parties to share and promote details about their activities through Scotland’s Towns Partnership; looks forward to following the progress under the second year of the plan, and reiterates its call for elected representatives at all levels, local communities and wider public and private sector partners to continue to work together to revitalise Scotland’s town centres.

Gavin Brown moved amendment S4M-11386.1 to motion S4M-11386—

Insert at end—

“; however, in so doing, believes that the Scottish Government generally needs to improve its rate of progress, in particular with regard to the Business Rates Incentivisation Scheme, which has been a disappointment so far, and calls on the Scottish Government to give serious consideration to an updated Town Centre Regeneration Fund and to implement a relief scheme for retail properties that have a rateable value of up to £50,000”.

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 12, Against 96, Abstentions 4).

The motion was then agreed to (DT).

**8. Deregulation Bill - UK Legislation:** The Deputy First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon) moved S4M-11380—That the Parliament agrees that the relevant provisions in the Deregulation Bill, introduced in the House of Commons on 23 January 2014, which

would enable the investigation of tramway accidents in Scotland by the Rail Accident Investigation Branch and provide the Scottish Ministers with powers relating to races or trials of speed on public roads, in so far as these matters fall within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament or alter the executive competence of the Scottish Ministers, should be considered by the UK Parliament.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**9. Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Bill – UK Legislation:** The Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Employment and Sustainable Growth (John Swinney) moved S4M-10756—That the Parliament agrees that the relevant provisions of the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Bill, introduced in the House of Commons on 25 June 2014, relating to a range of measures on access to finance, data-sharing in education, and insolvency, so far as these matters fall within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament, should be considered by the UK Parliament.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**10. Decision Time:** The Parliament took decisions on items 5, 7, 8 and 9 as noted above.

**11. The Importance of School Bus Safety around Scotland:** The Parliament debated S4M-11008 in the name of Stewart Stevenson—That the Parliament notes the importance of school bus safety around Scotland and what it considers the important work of Ron Beaty of Gardenstown, whom it congratulates for his efforts on this issue, specifically in relation to bus safety signs and bus visibility; considers that there is a very real danger of school pupils being injured if the situation at present is allowed to continue as it understands that recommendations from Transport Scotland are not being carried out across the country, and hopes that the need to ensure the safety of children across Scotland is urgently recognised, acknowledging that Mr Beaty first petitioned the Parliament on this matter in 2005.

The meeting closed at 5.56 pm.

**P E Grice**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
4 November 2014

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

**Affirmative instruments**

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 3 November 2014 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Criminal Legal Aid (Fixed Payments and Assistance by Way of Representation) (Scotland) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2014 [draft]  
laid under section 37 of the Legal Aid (Scotland) Act 1986

**Subordinate Legislation**

**Negative instruments**

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 31 October 2014 and is subject to the negative procedure—

Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (Commencement No. 3, Saving, Transitional Provision and Revocation) Order 2014 (SSI 2014/287)  
laid under sections 35(4) and 36(2) of the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014.

**Other Documents**

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 30th October 2014 and are not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Scotland's Budget Documents: The 2014-2015 Autumn Budget Revision to the Budget (Scotland) Act for the year ending 31 March 2015 (SG/2014/221)

Scottish Environment Protection Agency Annual Report and Accounts 2013-2014 (SG/2014/171)  
laid under section 46 of the Environment Act 1995 & section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000.

The Scottish Greenhouse Gas Emissions Annual Target 2012 (SG/2014/215)  
laid under section 33 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 31st October 2014 and are not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Scottish Legal Aid Board Annual Report 2013-2014 (SG/2014/218)  
laid under section 5(7)(a) of the Legal Aid (Scotland) Act 1986 and section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000.

Scottish Legal Aid Board Statement of Accounts For the year ending 31  
March 2014 (SG/2014/219)

laid under section 5(7)(a) of the Legal Aid (Scotland) Act 1986 and  
section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act  
2000.

The Scottish Civil Estate: Efficiency and Sustainability 2013/14 The Fourth  
Report on the performance and environmental sustainability of the Scottish  
Civil Estate (SG/2014/172)

laid under Section 76 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.

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