



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 3, No. 62, Session 5

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 19 December 2018

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

The meeting opened at 1.00 pm.

1. Centenary of the Iolaire Disaster: The Parliament debated S5M-14614 in the name of Alasdair Allan— That the Parliament commemorates with great sadness the Iolaire disaster of 1 January 1919, when at least 201 men, mainly those returning home to the islands of Lewis and Harris after active service in the Royal Navy, lost their lives; remembers this terrible event, which took place when HMY Iolaire struck the Beasts of Holm, a group of rocks only around three miles from where the men's families were waiting for them at Stornoway Harbour; notes the series of commemorations that will take place in the islands around the centenary, and commends the efforts that are being made in the community and nationally to give due recognition to a disaster that, for many decades afterwards, had a devastating impact on the people of the Western Isles.

2. Motion Without Notice: Alasdair Allan moved without notice that, under Rule 8.14.3, the debate be extended by up to 30 minutes. The motion was agreed to.

3. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Social Security and Older People and Communities and Local Government were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.

4. Ministerial Statement: The Minister for Mental Health (Clare Haughey) made a statement and answered questions on Reforming Mental Health Services.

5. Ministerial Statement: The Minister for Children and Young People (Maree Todd) made a statement and answered questions on Early Learning and Childcare Expansion.

6. Contribution of EU Citizens to Scotland: The Minister for Europe, Migration and International Development (Ben Macpherson) moved S5M-15184—That the Parliament welcomes the significant economic, social and cultural contributions made by EU citizens to Scotland; acknowledges that they are a welcome and integral part of communities across the country; notes that EU citizens are important contributors to key sectors such as health and social care, education, construction, tourism and hospitality, culture, rural industries and financial services; recognises that EU citizens who have settled in Scotland have done so under freedom of movement; however, notes that the UK Government’s policy is for EU citizens, including children, to enter an application process to obtain settled status and pay a fee to retain their existing rights to live, work and study in Scotland; recognises the risk that this charge could create a barrier for families and for individuals on low incomes; notes the Scottish Government commitment to meet the settled status fee for EU citizens working in devolved public services and to provide an information and advice service to support them; however, believes that EU citizens should not have to pay to retain rights that they already hold, and therefore calls on the UK Government to scrap its fee for settled status applications.

Adam Tomkins moved amendment S5M-15184.2—

As an amendment to motion S5M-15184 in the name of Ben Macpherson (Contribution of EU Citizens to Scotland), leave out from “however, notes that the UK Government’s policy” to end and insert “, and notes and welcomes that the first priority of the UK Government in the process of leaving the EU has always been to secure the status of EU citizens living in the UK, and UK nationals living in the EU.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 27, Against 90, Abstentions 0).

Claire Baker moved amendment S5M-15184.1—

As an amendment to motion S5M-15184 in the name of Ben Macpherson (Contribution of EU Citizens to Scotland), after “freedom of movement;” insert “commends the work of organisations such as EU Citizens Rights Project, in partnership with stakeholders, to address the needs and concerns of EU citizens, ensuring that their voice is heard throughout the negotiation period;”.

After debate, the amendment was agreed to.

The motion, as amended, was then agreed to ((DT) by division: For 90, Against 27, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—That the Parliament welcomes the significant economic, social and cultural contributions made by EU citizens to Scotland; acknowledges that they are a welcome and integral part of communities across the country; notes that EU citizens are important contributors to key sectors such as health and social care, education, construction, tourism and hospitality, culture, rural industries and financial services; recognises that EU citizens who have settled in Scotland have done so under freedom of movement; commends the work of

organisations such as EU Citizens Rights Project, in partnership with stakeholders, to address the needs and concerns of EU citizens, ensuring that their voice is heard throughout the negotiation period; however, notes that the UK Government's policy is for EU citizens, including children, to enter an application process to obtain settled status and pay a fee to retain their existing rights to live, work and study in Scotland; recognises the risk that this charge could create a barrier for families and for individuals on low incomes; notes the Scottish Government commitment to meet the settled status fee for EU citizens working in devolved public services and to provide an information and advice service to support them; however, believes that EU citizens should not have to pay to retain rights that they already hold, and therefore calls on the UK Government to scrap its fee for settled status applications.

7. Business Motion: Graeme Dey, on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S5M-15192—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 8 January 2019

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Ultra Low Emission Vehicles

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 9 January 2019

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Finance, Economy and Fair Work

followed by Ministerial Statement: Improving Animal Welfare

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Recognising the Life Sciences Sector in Scotland

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 10 January 2019

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

2.30 pm Scottish Government Debate: Future Rural Policy and Support in Scotland

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 15 January 2019

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Scottish Government Business

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 16 January 2019

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform; Rural Economy

followed by Scottish Government Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 17 January 2019

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

2.30 pm Scottish Government Business

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

(b) that, in relation to any debate on a business motion setting out a business programme taken on Wednesday 9 January 2019, the second sentence of rule 8.11.3 is suspended and replaced with "Any Member may speak on the motion at the discretion of the Presiding Officer"

and

(c) that, in relation to First Minister's Questions on Thursday 10 January 2019, in rule 13.6.2, insert at end "and may provide an opportunity for Party Leaders or their representatives to question the First Minister".

The motion was agreed to.

8. Business Motion: Graeme Dey, on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S5M-15193—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Health and Care (Staffing) (Scotland) Bill at stage 2 be completed by 8 February 2019.

The motion was agreed to.

9. Business Motion: Graeme Dey, on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S5M-15208—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Bill at stage 2 be extended to 1 March 2019.

The motion was agreed to.

10. Parliamentary Bureau Motion: Graeme Dey, on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S5M-15195—That the Parliament agrees that—

Patrick Harvie be appointed to replace Andy Wightman as the Green Party substitute on the Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee;

Andy Wightman be appointed to replace Patrick Harvie as the Green Party substitute on the Justice Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

11. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 6 and 10 as noted above.

12. Scottish Government to Penalise Scots for Living Alone: The Parliament debated S5M-14677 in the name of Jackie Baillie—That the Parliament disagrees with the Scottish Water proposal to cut the single occupancy discount from over half a million people in Scotland; understands that, currently, 944,659 people in Scotland receive a discount from Scottish Water due to the fact that they receive Council Tax Reduction or live alone; understands that the proposal is to instead offer discounts to only those who receive Council Tax Reduction, regardless of how many people live in the household; believes that this will see hundreds of thousands of people in Scotland, including those in the Dumbarton constituency, being forced to pay for far more water than they are actually using; considers that this will particularly affect older people who are on low and fixed incomes, and notes calls on the Scottish Government to work with Scottish Water to rethink what it considers this ill-advised proposal to penalise those who live alone.

The meeting closed at 5.37 pm.

P E Grice
Clerk of the Parliament
19 December 2018

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

Committee Reports

The following reports was published on 20 December 2018—

Justice Committee 18th Report, 2018 (Session 5): Consent notification considered by the Justice Committee, 18 December 2018 (SP Paper 441)

Hutchesons' Hospital Transfer and Dissolution (Scotland) Bill Committee, 1st Report 2018 (Session 5) Hutchesons' Hospital Transfer and Dissolution (Scotland) Bill – Preliminary Stage Report (SP Paper 443)

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 19 December 2018 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure-

Electoral observation at United Kingdom elections and referendums: code of practice for electoral observers ELC/2018/02 laid in pursuance of Section 6G(5) of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.

Scottish Public Services Ombudsman: Compendium Report of Discontinued Investigations

December 2018 SPSO/2018/12 laid under Sections 15(1) and 15(1A) of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002

Scottish Commission for Human Rights Annual Report and Accounts Year Ended 31 March 2018 SG/2018/212 laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

The Queen's Printer for Scotland Report covering the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018

SG/2018/271 laid at the request of a member of the Scottish Government and not under any laying power.

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the Scottish Parliament website at:

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