



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 2, No. 95, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 19 April 2023

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

- 1. Portfolio Questions:** Questions on Rural Affairs and Islands, and then on Health and Social Care, were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.
- 2. Ministerial Statement:** The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice (Shirley-Anne Somerville) made a statement and answered questions on Challenge to the UK Government's Section 35 Order on the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill.
- 3. Managing Scotland's Finances and Working with Business to Drive the Wellbeing Economy:** The Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy (Neil Gray) moved S6M-08604—That the Parliament recognises the need to create a wellbeing economy that is democratic, works for people and planet, and supports communities to fulfil their potential; believes that such an economy must be equitable, sustainable and dynamic in order to address the climate crises, the current financial and economic challenges, and to deliver a just transition to net zero, reduce child poverty and enhance public services; notes that plans to expand childcare support and implement the National Strategy for Economic Transformation and the Just Transition Plans will deliver new opportunities for communities, businesses and individuals across Scotland; considers that the development of community wealth building legislation will be a key component of the approach to local and regional economic development and empowerment, will promote and sustain fair work, create and retain more wealth within communities, build Scotland's tax base, strengthen its economic resilience, increase wellbeing for current and future generations and support the delivery of high-quality public services, and recognises that independence would allow Scotland to make greater progress, but, until then, calls

for the devolution of additional powers, in relation to energy, the economy and employment law, to the Scottish Parliament to support Scotland's transition to a wellbeing economy.

Liz Smith moved amendment S6M-08604.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-08604 in the name of Neil Gray (Managing Scotland's Finances and Working with Business to Drive the Wellbeing Economy), leave out from the first "recognises" to end and insert "is grateful to the Scottish Fiscal Commission (SFC) for its ground-breaking work contained within the recent Fiscal Sustainability Report, which forecasts Scottish economic trends for the next 50 years; notes the concerns cited by the SFC that current tax and spend structures and current models for public services will not deliver the necessary revenue that Scotland requires to address the substantial fiscal deficits, which are forecast to be around 10% each year, and calls on the new Scottish Government to be fully focussed on improving productivity, on widening the tax base and delivering the economic growth that Scotland so desperately needs."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 28, Against 87, Abstentions 0).

Michael Marra moved amendment S6M-08604.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-08604 in the name of Neil Gray (Managing Scotland's Finances and Working with Business to Drive the Wellbeing Economy), leave out from "notes" to end and insert "recognises the tremendous potential that Scotland has to be a world leader in developing an economy that works for everyone; believes that the Scottish Government should be doing more by using the extensive powers available in Scotland to create jobs, deliver environmental sustainability, tackle the cost of living, upskill workers, grow Scottish businesses and channel more investment into high-growth, innovative firms of the future, so that everyone benefits from Scotland's prosperity; understands that sustainable economic growth will be required to successfully deliver a jobs-first transition to net zero and an economy that works for all; believes that it is vitally important that the Scottish Government enables businesses and households to have confidence in Scotland's economic prospects, and calls on the Scottish Government to prioritise openness, transparency and competence in the management of Scotland's finances."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 23, Against 92, Abstentions 0).

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 64, Against 51, Abstentions 0).

4. Business Programme: The Minister for Cabinet and Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-08621—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 25 April 2023

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Illegal Migration Bill

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 26 April 2023

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Constitution, External Affairs and Culture; Justice and Veterans

followed by Scottish Labour Party Business

* *followed by* Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body Debate: Appointment of a Commissioner for Children and Young People in Scotland *

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Approval of SSIs (if required)

5.10 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 27 April 2023

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 Portfolio Questions: Education and Skills

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Opportunities for the Space Sector in Scotland

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 2 May 2023

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 3 May 2023

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy;
Finance and Parliamentary Business

followed by Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Approval of SSIs (if required)

5.10 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 4 May 2023

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

followed by Members' Business

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Net Zero and Just Transition

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Moveable Transactions (Scotland) Bill

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.30 pm Decision Time

(b) that, for the purposes of Portfolio Questions in the week beginning 24 April 2023, in rule 13.7.3, after the word “except” the words “to the extent to which the Presiding Officer considers that the questions are on the same or similar subject matter or” are inserted.

The motion was agreed to (by division: For 87, Against 28, Abstentions 0).

5. Stage 1 Timetable: The Minister for Cabinet and Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-08622—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Bill at stage 1 be completed by 6 October 2023.

The motion was agreed to.

6. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Cabinet and Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-08623—That the Parliament agrees that the Legal Aid and Advice and Assistance (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) (No. 2) Regulations 2023 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

7. Committee Meeting Times: The Minister for Cabinet and Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-08624—That the Parliament agrees that, under Rule 12.3.3B of Standing Orders, the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee can meet, if necessary, at the same time as a meeting of the Parliament between 2.00pm and 3.30pm on 27 April 2023.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

8. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 3, 6 and 7 as noted above.

9. Healthy AGeing in Scotland: The Parliament debated S6M-07967 in the name of Alexander Stewart—That the Parliament acknowledges that the University of Stirling-led Healthy AGeing In Scotland (HAGIS) study is the first of its kind to follow individuals and households across Scotland, including in the Mid Scotland and Fife region, through the passage of time; understands that the study, which was launched on 24 July 2015, is an ongoing, major Scotland-wide study of the health, economic and social circumstances of people over 50, which will enable future improvements to be made to the health and wellbeing of this age group; believes that there are currently two million people over 50 in Scotland, comprising 38% of the population; understands that the HAGIS study will capture a snapshot of the current circumstances of 1,000 people over 50; further understands that, following its findings in Autumn 2016, the aim was to expand the study to 8,000 people in 2018, charting changes in their health and social circumstances over the decades and reporting every two years; notes that the multi-partner HAGIS project team includes the Universities of Strathclyde and Edinburgh; believes that, while people in Scotland are now living longer and the size of the older population is increasing, the country historically possesses a relatively poor health record and significant levels of income inequality; considers that, as a result of its extensive research since inception, the

HAGIS study is proving to be what it sees as an extremely valuable and important new member of the growing worldwide network of longitudinal ageing studies, uncovering the unique health and social circumstances currently experienced by Scotland's ageing population; acknowledges the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030), which is a global collaboration, aligned with the last ten years of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, to improve the lives of older people, their families, and the communities in which they live; understands that the three domains of healthy ageing are physical ageing, mental/cognitive ageing and social wellbeing ageing; considers that harmonised data from HAGIS will permit quantitative comparisons of the ageing processes in Scotland with findings from the other members of the Health and Retirement Study family, which now covers more than 50% of the world's over-50 population, and commends the University of Stirling and its multi-partner university project team for embarking on what it considers as a significant and invaluable study into the improvement of health and wellbeing in the lives of Scotland's growing ageing population.

The meeting closed at 5.57 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
19 April 2023

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

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 19 April 2023—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 25th Report, 2023 (Session 6): Legislative Consent Memorandum: delegated powers relevant to Scotland in the Powers of Attorney Bill (SP Paper 350)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 26th Report, 2023 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 18 April 2023 (SP Paper 351)

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 19 April 2023 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Report on the Scottish Ministers' duties under section 23(1) (funding for alternative dispute resolution) and section 24(1) (pilot scheme for mandatory alternative dispute resolution meetings) of the Children (Scotland) Act 2020. April 2023 (SG/2023/10) laid under Sections 23(7) and 24(4) of the Children (Scotland) Act 2020

Scottish Public Services Ombudsman: Compendium of Case Reports for April 2023 (SPSO/2023/04) laid under Sections 15(1) and 15(1A) of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002

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