



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 3, No. 57, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 7 December 2023

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

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 (Humza Yousaf).

**3. Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Katharine Stewart-Murray, Duchess of Atholl's Election to the UK Parliament:** The Parliament debated S6M-09401 in the name of John Swinney—That the Parliament acknowledges what it sees as the significant historical milestone of the 100th anniversary of the election of Katharine Stewart-Murray, Duchess of Atholl, to the UK Parliament on 6 December 1923, as the MP for Kinross and West Perthshire; recognises her as the first female MP from Scotland, who, it believes, broke barriers and paved the way for women's representation in politics; commends her unwavering commitment to opposing authoritarian regimes throughout her career, and her consistent stance against Hitler and Nazi Germany, evident in what it sees as her brave resignation from the Conservative whip in 1938, which triggered a by-election; believes that the Unionist Party's decision to de-select her as its candidate in the by-election undermined women's representation in politics, and applauds what it considers to be her pioneering work in health and education, including her remarkable 36-year tenure as vice president of the Girls' Day School Trust, which, it believes, serves as an inspiration for future leaders and reinforces what it sees as the importance of expanding educational opportunities to girls.

**4. Portfolio Questions:** Questions on Education and Skills were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and a Minister.

**5. United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill – Reconsideration Stage:** The Bill was considered at Reconsideration Stage.

The following amendments were agreed to (without division): 1, 2, 3, 44, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 and 45.

**6. United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill (Reconsideration):** The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice (Shirley-Anne Somerville) moved S6M-11573—That the Parliament agrees that the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill be approved.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 117, Against 0, Abstentions 0).

**7. Motion Without Notice:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved without notice that, under Rule 11.2.4, Decision Time be brought forward to 4.17 pm.

The motion was agreed to.

**8. Decision Time:** The Parliament took a decision on item 6 as noted above.

The meeting closed at 4.23 pm.

**David McGill**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
7 December 2023

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

**Committee Reports**

The following reports were published on 7 December 2023—

Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee, 9th Report, 2023  
(Session 6): Report on the Council Tax (Variation for Unoccupied Dwellings)  
(Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2023 (SP Paper 488)

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee, 12th Report,  
2023 (Session 6): Standing Order Rule Changes – Proxy Voting (SP Paper  
489)

**Subordinate Legislation**

**Affirmative Instruments**

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 7 December 2023 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Bus Services Improvement Partnerships (Objections) (Scotland) Regulations 2024  
[draft]

laid under section 81(4) of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2001

**Negative Instruments**

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 7 December 2023 and are subject to the negative procedure—

Meat Preparations (Import Conditions) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2023  
(SSI 2023/367)

laid under paragraph 10A(3) of schedule 2 of the Trade in Animals and  
Related Products (Scotland) Regulations 2012

Bus Services Improvement Partnerships and Local Services Franchises (Provision of  
Information) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 (SSI 2023/368)

laid under section 81(3) of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2001

Welfare Foods (Best Start Foods) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2023 (SSI  
2023/371)

laid under section 15A of the Social Security Act 1988 and section 176(3) of  
the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992

**Other Documents**

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 7 December 2023 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**Scottish Social Services Council Annual Report and Accounts 1 April 2022 to  
31 March 2023 (SG/2023/159)** laid under Schedule 2, Section 10(1) of the

Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001 and Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

**Young Start Annual Report 2022/23 (SG/2023/289)** laid under Paragraph 9, Part 3, Schedule 3 of the Dormant Bank and Building Society Accounts Act 2008

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