



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 2, No. 75, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 9 February 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 (Nicola Sturgeon).
- 3. UK Income Inequality:** The Parliament debated S6M-07249 in the name of Emma Roddick—That the Parliament notes with alarm a recent Financial Times analysis, which shows the scale of income inequality in the UK relative to other countries in Europe; records its concern over the implications for people across Scotland, including rural and island constituents in the Highlands and Islands, amid what it considers an unprecedented cost of living crisis; recognises that, according to the analysis, the average Slovenian household is set to be better off than its British counterpart by 2024, and that the richest will get richer; believes that this analysis has reinforced the findings of the Scottish Government's Building a New Scotland papers, which, it considers, demonstrate how independent European countries comparable to Scotland are wealthier and fairer than the UK, and considers that it is important to learn from comparator countries and create a fairer Scotland, combining economic dynamism with social solidarity.
- 4. Portfolio Questions:** Questions on Net Zero, Energy and Transport were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and Ministers.

5. International Day of Women and Girls in Science: The Minister for Higher Education and Further Education, Youth Employment and Training (Jamie Hepburn) moved S6M-07852—Pam Gosal moved amendment S6M-07852.2—That the Parliament commends the International Day of Women and Girls in Science as a celebration of the achievements of generations of female scientists; recognises that female scientists and innovators are integral to Scotland's world-leading science and research excellence, and addressing the global challenges faced; affirms its commitment to tackle gender inequality across different areas of the education and learning landscape, and commends the support given by a range of organisations in helping to drive forward the Scottish Government's commitment to gender equality in science.

Pam Gosal moved amendment S6M-07852.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-07852 in the name of Jamie Hepburn (International Day of Women and Girls in Science), insert at end “; notes that the Parliament must build on the work being done by a range of organisations to inspire young women and girls to engage in science and STEM subjects from early years education and throughout their education journey; recognises the need to improve diversity and inclusion for women; commits to exploring further pathways to ensure that no woman is denied the ability to enter the science and STEM sector as a result of their gender, ethnicity or disability, and further commits to removing the barriers that are hindering diversity and inclusion in science.”

After debate the amendment was agreed to (DT).

Michael Marra moved amendment S6M-07852.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-07852 in the name of Jamie Hepburn (International Day of Women and Girls in Science), insert at end “; recognises that gender inequality in participation in science and other STEM subjects starts at a young age, and considers that Scotland's schools have a vital role to play in ensuring that STEM subjects are available to young women and encouraging young women to consider careers in science.”

After debate the amendment was agreed to (DT).

The motion, as amended, was agreed to (DT).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament commends the International Day of Women and Girls in Science as a celebration of the achievements of generations of female scientists; recognises that female scientists and innovators are integral to Scotland's world-leading science and research excellence, and addressing the global challenges faced; affirms its commitment to tackle gender inequality across different areas of the education and learning landscape; commends the support given by a range of organisations in helping to drive forward the Scottish Government's commitment to gender equality in science; notes that the Parliament must build on the work being done by a range of

organisations to inspire young women and girls to engage in science and STEM subjects from early years education and throughout their education journey; recognises the need to improve diversity and inclusion for women; commits to exploring further pathways to ensure that no woman is denied the ability to enter the science and STEM sector as a result of their gender, ethnicity or disability; further commits to removing the barriers that are hindering diversity and inclusion in science; recognises that gender inequality in participation in science and other STEM subjects starts at a young age, and considers that Scotland's schools have a vital role to play in ensuring that STEM subjects are available to young women and encouraging young women to consider careers in science.

6. Scottish Rate Resolution: The Minister for Public Finance, Planning and Community Wealth (Tom Arthur) moved S6M-07853—That the Parliament agrees that, for the purposes of section 11A of the Income Tax Act 2007 (which provides for Income Tax to be charged at Scottish rates on certain non-savings and non-dividend income of a Scottish taxpayer), the Scottish rates and limits for the tax year 2023-24 are as follows—

(a) a starter rate of 19%, charged on income up to a limit of £2,162,

(b) the Scottish basic rate is 20%, charged on income above £2,162 and up to a limit of £13,118,

(c) an intermediate rate of 21%, charged on income above £13,118 and up to a limit of £31,092,

(d) a higher rate of 42%, charged on income above £31,092 and up to a limit of £125,140, and

(e) a top rate of 47%, charged on income above £125,140.

The motion, as amended, was agreed to by division: For 90, Against 2, Abstentions 28).

7. Decision Time: The Parliament took a decision on item 5 as noted above.

The meeting closed at 5.08 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
9 February 2023

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

Subordinate Legislation

Negative Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 9 February 2023 and are subject to the negative procedure—

Non-Domestic Rates (Restriction of Relief) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 (SSI 2023/28)

laid under section 153(6) of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994

Non-Domestic Rate (Scotland) Order 2023 (SSI 2023/29)

laid under section 7B(5) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1975

Non-Domestic Rates (Levying and Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 (SSI 2023/30)

laid under section 153(6) of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994

Non-Domestic Rates (Transitional Relief) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 (SSI 2023/31)

laid under section 153(6) of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994

Valuation for Rating (Plant and Machinery) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2023 (SSI 2023/32)

laid under section 43 of the Lands Valuation (Scotland) Act 1854

Road Works (Reinstatement Quality Plans, Qualifications of Supervisors and Operatives and Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 (SSI 2023/33)

laid under section 163(2) of the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 and section 143(2) of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984

Other Documents

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 9 February 2023 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

The Sea Fish Industry Authority (Seafish) Annual Report and Accounts 2021/22 (SG/2023/030) laid under Section 11(8) of the Fisheries Act 1981

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