



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 2, No. 78, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 23 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. Chinese State Surveillance: The Parliament debated S6M-07832 in the name of Alex Cole-Hamilton—That the Parliament notes the reported shooting down of a Chinese state surveillance balloon over the United States on 5 February 2022; understands that this is not the first occasion that such a balloon has been deployed over the sovereign territory of another state; considers this to be a worrying expansion of attempts by the People's Republic of China to monitor and gather information in a covert way; expresses concern about the reported implications of China's National Intelligence Law regarding the ability of the state to gather private data and information from within the UK, including through those companies required to cooperate; notes the reported call by Alicia Kearns MP, Chair of the UK Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, for UK citizens to delete the TikTok app from their phones; further notes the reported remarks of the UK Biometrics and Surveillance Camera Commissioner, who likened the use of Hikvision technology in public surveillance infrastructure to "digital asbestos"; understands that such technology is used by public bodies across Scotland, including in Edinburgh; notes the reports of the intimidation of dissidents, challenges to freedom of expression and the existence of unofficial so-called "Chinese police stations", including in Glasgow,

and notes the calls for both the Scottish and UK governments to undertake a comprehensive investigation into the reach of Chinese surveillance in Scotland.

4. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Social Justice, Housing and Local Government were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and Ministers.

5. Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill - UK Legislation: The Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External Affairs and Culture (Angus Robertson) moved S6M-07997—That the Parliament agrees with the recommendation in the Scottish Government's Legislative Consent Memorandum to withhold consent for the UK Government's Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 84, Against 30, Abstentions 0).

6. Marking One Year of War against Ukraine: The Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine (Neil Gray) moved S6M-07998—That the Parliament condemns in the strongest possible terms the illegal Russian war against Ukraine, which began on 24 February 2022; reiterates its solidarity with the people and government of Ukraine; repeats its concern about the grave threat to the safety and security of Ukrainian citizens, and mourns each and every death caused by Russia's illegal aggression; asserts the vital importance of Ukraine defeating Russia's aggression and calls upon the international community to provide Ukraine with the necessary military, financial and humanitarian support; rejects Russia's illegal attempts to annex the Ukrainian regions of Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia via sham referenda; commends all countries who have welcomed displaced Ukrainians and are providing crucial life-saving humanitarian assistance to Ukrainians in need of support; thanks the organisations and people that have supported displaced Ukrainians to settle in Scotland; declares unequivocally that all Ukrainians who have made Scotland their temporary home will be welcome for as long as they need; welcomes the poignant Postcards from Ukraine exhibition hosted in the Scottish Parliament, and wishes a speedy and peaceful resolution to the war that ensures Ukrainian sovereignty, democracy, independence and territorial integrity within its internationally-recognised borders.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

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 4.57 pm. The motion was agreed to.

8. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 5 and 6 as noted above.

The meeting closed at 5.04 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament

23 February 2023

Appendix

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

Subordinate Legislation

Laid Only Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 23 February 2023 and are not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 (Commencement No. 7) Order 2023 (SSI 2023/49 (C.4))

laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm (Scotland) Act 2016 (Commencement No. 3, Transitional and Saving Provisions) Regulations 2023 (SSI 2023/51 (C.5))

laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

Other Documents

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 23 February 2023 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

NHS in Scotland 2022: A report prepared for the Auditor General for Scotland (AGS/2023/1) laid under the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

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