



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 3, No. 86, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 6 March 2024

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Wellbeing Economy, Net Zero and Energy and then Finance and Parliamentary Business were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and Ministers.

2. Ending Violence in Scottish Schools: Liam Kerr moved S6M-12389—That the Parliament believes that no pupil, teacher or member of school staff should suffer physical or verbal abuse and that every child and young person has the right to an uninterrupted school day, free from violence and disruption; notes the impact that the current escalation of violence in schools has had on the teaching profession, especially in relation to retention and mental health; further notes, with concern, the alarming reports of instances of violence and disruption, and calls on the Scottish Government to support parents, teachers and staff, assisting them in promoting acceptable behaviour and tackling instances of violence and disruption; calls on the Scottish Government to support children and young people impacted by violence and disruption in schools and to facilitate an environment in which all young people are safe to learn, develop and grow, and further calls on all Members of the Scottish Parliament to work together in tackling the seriousness of this issue, diligently and without delay.

The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills (Jenny Gilruth) moved amendment S6M-12389.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-12389 in the name of Liam Kerr (Ending Violence in Scottish Schools), insert “, alongside local authorities,

schools, teachers and young people themselves; recognises the work that is already underway to respond to these challenges, including the joint national action plan with COSLA, which will publish in the spring; welcomes the publication of the gender-based violence in schools framework, which it agrees is a necessary step in responding to the increase in misogynistic behaviours identified by the behaviour in Scottish schools research and reports by teaching unions, and reaffirms, in the week of International Women's Day, the need to end misogyny in Scotland's schools and wider society.”

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 92, Against 20, Abstentions 0).

Pam Duncan-Glancy moved amendment S6M-12389.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-12389 in the name of Liam Kerr (Ending Violence in Scottish Schools), insert at end “; notes that teachers and school staff must be safe from violence and harassment at work; recognises that cuts to education, increased teacher workload, the absence of more non-contact time and a lack of support for pupils with additional support needs continue to contribute to the rise of violence and poor behaviour in schools; further recognises the important role that youth work and external programmes, like the MCR Pathways service in Glasgow, play in providing additional support for young people, and calls on the Scottish Government to publish the national action plan on behaviour in schools imminently, and to include in it the collection of national, anonymous data, clear processes for the reporting of incidents with support from senior management in schools, the addition of teacher wellbeing as a measure of inspection, and clear guidance on consequences and escalation.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 53, Against 61, Abstentions 0).

The motion, as amended, was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 94, Against 20, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament agreed that—

That the Parliament believes that no pupil, teacher or member of school staff should suffer physical or verbal abuse and that every child and young person has the right to an uninterrupted school day, free from violence and disruption; notes the impact that the current escalation of violence in schools has had on the teaching profession, especially in relation to retention and mental health; further notes, with concern, the alarming reports of instances of violence and disruption, and calls on the Scottish Government to support parents, teachers and staff, assisting them in promoting acceptable behaviour and tackling instances of violence and disruption; calls on the Scottish Government to support children and young people impacted by violence and disruption in schools and to facilitate an environment in which all young people are safe to learn, develop and grow; further calls on all Members of the Scottish Parliament to work together in tackling the seriousness of this issue, diligently and without delay, alongside local authorities, schools, teachers and young people

themselves; recognises the work that is already underway to respond to these challenges, including the joint national action plan with COSLA, which will publish in the spring; welcomes the publication of the gender-based violence in schools framework, which it agrees is a necessary step in responding to the increase in misogynistic behaviours identified by the behaviour in Scottish schools research and reports by teaching unions, and reaffirms, in the week of International Women's Day, the need to end misogyny in Scotland's schools and wider society.

3. Backing Scotland's Oil and Gas Sector: Douglas Lumsden moved S6M-12388—That the Parliament recognises the vital role that oil and gas plays in Scotland's energy mix and in supporting tens of thousands of Scottish jobs, particularly in the north east, and in providing vital energy security; condemns the Scottish Government's "presumption against new exploration for oil and gas" as stated in its draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan, as well as the Scottish National Party administration's failure to welcome new oil and gas developments such as Rosebank, which will boost UK energy security and the economy with a direct investment of over £8 billion as well as providing nearly 1,600 jobs; further condemns the Labour Party's intention to block any new oil and gas licences and its proposed extended windfall tax, which the OEUK has warned will lead to "42,000 job losses" and £26 billion of economic value being wiped out; acknowledges that there is a climate emergency and, therefore, welcomes that the UK has become the first major economy to halve emissions from their peak; notes that a just transition is needed to meet net zero targets, but believes that this must not leave any industry or community behind and cannot be achieved without the investment, innovation and skills from the oil and gas sector, and calls on the Scottish Government and the Labour Party to end their reckless assault on North Sea oil and gas workers and Scotland's economy.

The Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Net Zero and Energy (Màiri McAllan) moved amendment S6M-12388.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-12388 in the name of Douglas Lumsden (Backing Scotland's Oil and Gas Sector), leave out from first "vital" to end and insert "important role that is played by oil and gas in the energy profile of Scotland, the tens of thousands of jobs in that sector, and the essential contribution that the sector's skilled workforce must make to Scotland's present and future energy security; understands the severity and urgency of the global climate emergency and the clear body of scientific evidence showing the need for a rapid shift away from current reliance on fossil fuels as part of the response to this; further understands that a just transition for Scotland's oil and gas sector is essential, given both the declining nature of the North Sea basin and Scotland's climate change commitments; supports a just transition approach for all sectors of Scotland's economy, in which emissions are reduced in line with climate goals, energy security is maintained, and workers and communities are supported as part of a genuine managed transition; acknowledges that the Scottish Government is in the process of finalising its Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan, following the publication of analysis of consultation responses on the draft Strategy and Plan; recognises that licensing and regulation for offshore oil and gas, and the associated fiscal regime, are all matters that currently remain reserved to the

UK Government; expresses frustration that the Scottish Government does not have all of the powers necessary to ensure that Scotland fully capitalises on its competitive advantages in the energy transition, including its world-leading and highly skilled offshore workforces; calls on the UK Government to deliver simple, holistic and predictable windfall taxes on excessive profits to address the cost of living crisis and to increase investment in the transition to net zero, and believes that revenues should not be used to fund new nuclear power.”

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 61, Against 52, Abstentions 0).

Daniel Johnson moved amendment S6M-12388.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-12388 in the name of Douglas Lumsden (Backing Scotland's Oil and Gas Sector), leave out from “recognises” to end and insert “believes that if Scotland is to maintain its reputation for expertise in energy generation, there is a need to deliver a just transition to the clean energy industries of the future; recognises the huge contribution that oil and gas make to Scotland's energy mix and economy, supporting tens of thousands of well-paid jobs, and agrees that, as part of the energy transition, oil and gas production will continue in the North Sea for decades to come; condemns the economic incompetence of the UK Conservative administration and the Scottish National Party administration, which has exacerbated the cost of living crisis for households in Scotland; believes that the policies and instability of the UK Conservative administration are further undermining progress in delivering the energy jobs of the future and failing to improve energy security; notes that the Scottish National Party administration has chosen to side with energy giants over working people with its recent u-turn on a windfall tax on exorbitant profits of oil and gas companies, all while raising taxes on working people, and notes that the Labour Party's proposed windfall tax is time-limited, will sunset at the end of the next parliamentary session and will provide the revenue to deliver the Labour Party's Green Prosperity Plan, which will support 50,000 clean energy jobs in Scotland, create GB Energy as a publicly-owned energy company, bring down energy bills and deliver the just transition that Scotland's climate needs, and that workers in the north east deserve, so that no community is left behind.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 19, Against 95, Abstentions 0).

The motion, as amended, was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 62, Against 51, Abstentions 1).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved that—

That the Parliament recognises the important role that is played by oil and gas in the energy profile of Scotland, the tens of thousands of jobs in that sector, and the essential contribution that the sector's skilled workforce must make to Scotland's present and future energy security; understands the severity and urgency of the global climate emergency and the clear body of scientific evidence showing the need

for a rapid shift away from current reliance on fossil fuels as part of the response to this; further understands that a just transition for Scotland's oil and gas sector is essential, given both the declining nature of the North Sea basin and Scotland's climate change commitments; supports a just transition approach for all sectors of Scotland's economy, in which emissions are reduced in line with climate goals, energy security is maintained, and workers and communities are supported as part of a genuine managed transition; acknowledges that the Scottish Government is in the process of finalising its Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan, following the publication of analysis of consultation responses on the draft Strategy and Plan; recognises that licensing and regulation for offshore oil and gas, and the associated fiscal regime, are all matters that currently remain reserved to the UK Government; expresses frustration that the Scottish Government does not have all of the powers necessary to ensure that Scotland fully capitalises on its competitive advantages in the energy transition, including its world-leading and highly skilled offshore workforces; calls on the UK Government to deliver simple, holistic and predictable windfall taxes on excessive profits to address the cost of living crisis and to increase investment in the transition to net zero, and believes that revenues should not be used to fund new nuclear power.

4. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-12397—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 12 March 2024

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Housing (Cladding Remediation) (Scotland) Bill

followed by Financial Resolution: Housing (Cladding Remediation) (Scotland) Bill

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 13 March 2024

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands; NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care

followed by Scottish Labour 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 14 March 2024

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: Social Justice

followed by Social Justice and Social Security Committee Debate: Addressing Child Poverty Through Parental Employment

followed by Legislative Consent Motion: Investigatory Powers (Amendment) Bill - UK Legislation

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 19 March 2024

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Bill

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 20 March 2024

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

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

followed by Scottish Government Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Approval of SSIs (if required)

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 21 March 2024

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

followed by Members' Business

2.15 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.15 pm Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body Questions

2.30 pm Portfolio Questions: Education and Skills

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Circular Economy (Scotland) Bill

followed by Financial Resolution: Circular Economy (Scotland) Bill

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

(b) that, for the purposes of Portfolio Questions in the week beginning 11 March 2024, 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.

5. Stage 1 Timetable: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-12398—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Judicial Factors (Scotland) Bill at stage 1 be completed by 27 September 2024.

The motion was agreed to.

6. Stage 2 Timetable: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-12399—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Bankruptcy and Diligence (Scotland) Bill at stage 2 be completed by 26 April 2024.

The motion was agreed to.

7. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-12400—That the Parliament agrees that the Scottish Food Commission (Appointment) Regulations 2024 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

8. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-12401—That the Parliament agrees that the Land and Buildings Transaction Tax (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Order 2024 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

9. Committee Membership: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-12402—That the Parliament agrees that—

Marie McNair be appointed to replace Fulton MacGregor as a member of the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee;

Evelyn Tweed be appointed as a member of the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee;

Gordon MacDonald be appointed to replace Marie McNair as a member of the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee, and

Jackie Dunbar be appointed to replace Evelyn Tweed as a member of the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

10. Substitution on Committees: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-12403—That the Parliament agrees that—

Kevin Stewart be appointed as the Scottish National Party substitute on the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee;

Colin Beattie be appointed to replace Gordon MacDonald as the Scottish National Party substitute on the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee;

Collette Stevenson be appointed as the Scottish National Party substitute on the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee;

Bob Doris be appointed to replace Jackie Dunbar as the Scottish National Party substitute on the Economy and Fair Work Committee;

Karen Adam be appointed as the Scottish National Party substitute on the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee, and

David Torrance be appointed to replace James Dornan as the Scottish National Party substitute on the Social Justice and Social Security Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

11. Designation of Lead Committee: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-12404—That the Parliament agrees that the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the supplementary legislative consent memorandum on the Automated Vehicles Bill.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

12. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 as noted above.

13. Congratulating the University of Stirling on the Launch of its Winning Students 100 Programme: The Parliament debated S6M-12000 in the name of Keith Brown—That the Parliament congratulates the University of Stirling, in the Clackmannanshire and Dunblane constituency, on the successful launch of its new Winning Students 100 programme; understands that this launch marks an important update to the existing Winning Students programme, initially established in 2008, which has awarded 1,700 scholarships since then, supporting gold medal Olympians and Paralympians, as well as European and world champions, in balancing their studies with high-performance and professional sports; commends the achievements of this scheme; understands that the scheme is made possible through cross-departmental support from the Scottish Funding Council, sportscotland, and the tertiary education sector, and looks forward to witnessing what it sees as the positive impact of this updated programme on the lives and careers of the participating student-athletes from across the network of universities and colleges that are involved.

The meeting closed at 5.51 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
6 March 2024

Appendix

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 6 March 2024—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 16th Report, 2024 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 5 March 2024 (SP Paper 538)

Other Documents

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 6 March 2024 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

HM Fire Service Inspectorate - Chief Inspector's Update 2021–2024 (SG/2024/28) laid at the request of a member of the Scottish Government and not under any laying power

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