



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 3, No. 44, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 8 November 2023

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

- 1. Portfolio Questions:** Questions on Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands, and then on NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care, were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.
- 2. Ministerial Statement:** The Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands (Mairi Gougeon) made a statement and answered questions on Scotland's Approach to 2023 Coastal State Fisheries Negotiations: Securing Principled, Sustainable Outcomes.
- 3. CashBack for Communities:** The Minister for Victims and Community Safety (Siobhian Brown) moved S6M-11127—That the Parliament commends the CashBack for Communities programme, which is now in its 15th year and sixth phase; understands that the programme is unique to Scotland and reinvests money recovered under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002; acknowledges that the aims of the programme are diversion from antisocial behaviour, provision of positive activity, support for wellbeing, and building confidence and skills for young people; notes that, since its inception, the programme has committed £130 million to supporting around 1.3 million young people; understands that, over the next three years, phase six of the programme is expected to reach around 34,000 young people; welcomes and thanks the CashBack for Communities-funded partner organisations for their dedication, passion and hard work; recognises the opportunities and benefits that the programme brings to children, young people, families and communities, and applauds the achievements of the many thousands of CashBack for Communities participants.

Russell Findlay moved amendment S6M-11127.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-11127 in the name of Siobhian Brown (CashBack for Communities), insert at end “; recognises that the money recovered from the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 does not match the vast wealth accumulated by criminals in Scotland; acknowledges that the activities of organised crime groups, including drug dealing, have a devastating impact on communities, resulting in a high number of deaths; calls, therefore, on the Scottish Government to review the effectiveness of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, which was fully enacted in March 2004, with a view to increasing the amount of money that can be recovered, and urges the Scottish Government to update its Serious Organised Crime strategy to ensure that tackling damaging, high-level criminality remains a key priority of the justice system.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 49, Against 63, Abstentions 1).

Katy Clark moved amendment S6M-11127.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-11127 in the name of Siobhian Brown (CashBack for Communities), insert at end “, and recognises the importance of access to restorative justice practices, not only as a measure to prevent antisocial behaviour, but also as a tool for young people who are already involved in the criminal justice system.”

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 CashBack for Communities programme, which is now in its 15th year and sixth phase; understands that the programme is unique to Scotland and reinvests money recovered under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002; acknowledges that the aims of the programme are diversion from antisocial behaviour, provision of positive activity, support for wellbeing, and building confidence and skills for young people; notes that, since its inception, the programme has committed £130 million to supporting around 1.3 million young people; understands that, over the next three years, phase six of the programme is expected to reach around 34,000 young people; welcomes and thanks the CashBack for Communities-funded partner organisations for their dedication, passion and hard work; recognises the opportunities and benefits that the programme brings to children, young people, families and communities; applauds the achievements of the many thousands of CashBack for Communities participants, and recognises the importance of access to restorative justice practices, not only as a measure to prevent antisocial behaviour, but also as a tool for young people who are already involved in the criminal justice system.

4. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-11143—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 14 November 2023

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Ministerial Statement: Ferguson Marine

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Building a New Scotland: Migration to Scotland after Independence

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 15 November 2023

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

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

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 16 November 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: Education and Skills

followed by Ministerial Statement: Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Service Contract

followed by Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee Debate: Culture in Communities: The Challenges and Opportunities in Delivering a Place-based Approach

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 21 November 2023

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Health, Social Care and Sport Committee Debate: Female Participation in Sport and Physical Activity

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 22 November 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 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 23 November 2023

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: Transport, Net Zero and Just Transition

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Disabled Children and Young People (Transitions to Adulthood) (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 13 November 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.

Russell Findlay moved amendment S6M-11143.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-11143 in the name of George Adam (Business Programme), leave out—

“*followed by* Scottish Government Debate: Building a New Scotland: Migration to Scotland after Independence”

and insert—

“*followed by* Scottish Government Debate: Reversing the Decline in the Number of Officers in Police Scotland”.

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to (by division: For 29, Against 81, Abstentions 1).

Martin Whitfield moved amendment S6M-11143.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-11143 in the name of George Adam (Business Programme), leave out—

“followed by Scottish Government Debate: Building a New Scotland: Migration to Scotland after Independence”

and insert—

“followed by Scottish Government Debate: Homeless Crisis in Cities and Rural Areas”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to (by division: For 49, Against 63, Abstentions 1).

The motion was agreed to (by division: For 64, Against 30, Abstentions 19).

5. Stage 1 Timetable: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-11144—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Abortion Services (Safe Access Zones) (Scotland) Bill at stage 1 be completed by 3 May 2024.

The motion was agreed to.

6. Stage 1 Extension: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-11145—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Bankruptcy and Diligence (Scotland) Bill at stage 1 be extended to 23 February 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-11146—That the Parliament agrees that the Disability Assistance (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

8. Designation of Lead Committee: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-11147—That the Parliament agrees that the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the Housing (Cladding Remediation) (Scotland) Bill at stage 1.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

9. Designation of Lead Committee: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-11148—That the Parliament agrees that the Social Justice and Social Security Committee be

designated as the lead committee in consideration of the Social Security (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill at stage 1.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

10. Committee Membership: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-11149—That the Parliament agrees that the following changes to committee membership will apply from close of business on Thursday 9 November 2023—

Evelyn Tweed be appointed as a member of the Economy and Fair Work Committee;

Bob Doris be appointed as a member of the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee; and

Ruth Maguire be appointed to replace Evelyn Tweed as a member of the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

11. Office of the Clerk: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-11150—That the Parliament agrees that the Office of the Clerk be closed on Wednesday 27, Thursday 28 and Friday 29 December 2023.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

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

13. Contribution of the Scottish Convenience Store Sector: The Parliament debated S6M-10747 in the name of Gordon MacDonald—That the Parliament recognises what it sees as the vital importance of the Scottish convenience sector; understands that there are 5,171 convenience stores in Scotland, providing over 49,000 local jobs, which includes 95% of staff employed on a permanent contract and 42% choosing to walk to work; commends the sector for the key services that local shops provide for communities the length and breadth of the country, such as those in the Edinburgh Pentlands constituency, including, it understands, 83% offering mobile phone top-ups, 76% offering bill payment services, 47% offering free-to-use ATMs, and 27% with Post Offices; welcomes the fact that many Scottish stores also now offer online and home delivery options for customers; notes that the vast majority of shops are open seven days a week, and, in some cases, are open 24 hours a day; understands that colleagues in the UK convenience sector worked a combined total of 12.1 million hours per week between 2022 and 2023; further understands that Scottish convenience retailers have invested £62 million in their stores over the last year, and that, at a UK level, the convenience sector contributed over £10.6 billion in gross value added (GVA) and over £9.1 billion in taxes over the same period, and congratulates the Scottish Grocers' Federation on promoting responsible community retailing among its membership, the sector generally on what

it sees as its ability to thrive, and convenience stores on continuing to be, it believes, important local community assets.

The meeting closed at 6.04 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
8 November 2023

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 8 November 2023—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 66th Report, 2023 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 7 November 2023 (SP Paper 465)

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 8 November 2023 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Council Tax (Variation for Unoccupied Dwellings) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2023 [draft]
laid under section 33(6) of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 8 November 2023 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2023 (SFC/2023/5)
laid under section 12(1) of the Scottish Fiscal Commission Act 2016

HMICS Custody Inspection Report - Dumfries and Galloway (HMICS/2023/07)
laid under section 79(3) of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012

Scottish Public Pensions Agency Annual Report and Accounts 2022/23 (SG/2023/233) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Transvaginal Mesh Removal Reimbursement Scheme 2023 (SG/2023/279) laid under Section 2(2)(a) of the Transvaginal Mesh Removal (Cost Reimbursement) (Scotland) Act 2022

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