



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 3, No. 26, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 13 September 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. Pausing the Short-term Lets Licensing Scheme: Murdo Fraser moved S6M-10411—That the Parliament notes the widespread concern in the tourist sector at the introduction of the licensing scheme for short-term lets, which is effective from 1 October 2023; understands that this will apply not just to stand-alone self-catering units, but also to home sharing, B&Bs, guest houses and home swaps; is concerned that the unintended consequences of the scheme will have a seriously negative impact on Scotland’s tourism offer, and calls on the Scottish Government to pause the introduction of the scheme for 12 months to allow for modifications based on a detailed, evidence-based review of its impact.

The Minister for Housing (Paul McLennan) moved amendment S6M-10411.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-10411 in the name of Murdo Fraser (Pausing the Short-term Lets Licensing Scheme), leave out from “notes” to end and insert “recognises the success of Scotland’s growing tourism sector and that well-managed, short-term lets are a significant part of that economy; welcomes the reassurance and safeguards for visitors, hosts and communities that the short-term lets licensing scheme provides; acknowledges the work that local authorities have done to date in processing applications, and also those hosts who have submitted applications so far; highlights the six-month extension to

the application deadline, giving nearly two years for hosts to comply with licensing conditions and a year to prepare and submit an application; notes the ongoing Scottish Government engagement with local authorities and the short-term lets sector across Scotland; calls on all MSPs to focus on supporting and encouraging any outstanding applications to be submitted to local authorities before 1 October 2023; confirms the Scottish Government's ongoing work to listen to and engage with the sector, and reaffirms the Scottish Government's commitment to an implementation review update in early 2024."

Mark Griffin moved amendment S6M-10411.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-10411 in the name of Murdo Fraser (Pausing the Short-term Lets Licensing Scheme), insert at end “, and consideration of changes, which, as a minimum, must include the removal from the licensing scheme of any accommodation that owners use as their primary residence, B&B accommodation, house swaps, purpose-built accommodation and room lets, and agrees that the forthcoming Housing Bill should be used to deliver a system of regulation that works for both local communities and the sector, and a registration scheme.”

After debate, amendment S6M-10411.3 was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 65, Against 51, Abstentions 0). As a result, amendment S6M-10411.2 was pre-empted.

The motion, as amended, was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 62, Against 54, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament recognises the success of Scotland's growing tourism sector and that well-managed, short-term lets are a significant part of that economy; welcomes the reassurance and safeguards for visitors, hosts and communities that the short-term lets licensing scheme provides; acknowledges the work that local authorities have done to date in processing applications, and also those hosts who have submitted applications so far; highlights the six-month extension to the application deadline, giving nearly two years for hosts to comply with licensing conditions and a year to prepare and submit an application; notes the ongoing Scottish Government engagement with local authorities and the short-term lets sector across Scotland; calls on all MSPs to focus on supporting and encouraging any outstanding applications to be submitted to local authorities before 1 October 2023; confirms the Scottish Government's ongoing work to listen to and engage with the sector, and reaffirms the Scottish Government's commitment to an implementation review update in early 2024.

3. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-10420—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 19 September 2023

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions
followed by Topical Questions (if selected)
followed by Scottish Government Debate: Drug Law Reform
followed by Committee Announcements
followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions
5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 20 September 2023

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

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

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 21 September 2023

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: Education and Skills

followed by Criminal Justice Committee Debate: Tackling Online Child Abuse, Grooming and Exploitation

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 26 September 2023

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Scottish Government Business

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 27 September 2023

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy; Finance and Parliamentary Business

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Patient Safety Commissioner for Scotland Bill

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Approval of SSIs (if required)

6.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 28 September 2023

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: Transport, Net Zero and Just Transition

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Trusts and Succession (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 18 September 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.

The motion was agreed to.

4. Stage 1 Timetable: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-10421—That the Parliament

agrees that consideration of the Bankruptcy and Diligence (Scotland) Bill at stage 1 be completed by 24 November 2023.

The motion was agreed to.

5. Decision Time: The Parliament took a decision on item 2 as noted above.

6. Opening of Scotland's First Bairns' Hoose: The Parliament debated S6M-10262 in the name of Rona Mackay—That the Parliament expresses its delight at the establishment of the first Bairns' Hoose in Scotland, providing children in north Strathclyde who are the victims or witnesses of abuse or violence with access to protection, care and recovery services under one roof, and improving the way that they are dealt with within the Scottish justice system; understands that the first Bairns' Hoose will support children, young people and members of their family from East Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire, Inverclyde and Renfrewshire; commends the charity, Children 1st, which has led the way in ensuring the development of Scotland's first Bairns' Hoose, supported by the partners, Victim Support Scotland, the University of Edinburgh, Children England and the Postcode Dream Fund, which is made possible by the players of People's Postcode Lottery; believes that Bairns' Hoose is based on an alternative model first developed in Iceland, called Barnahus; notes that the space has been designed in collaboration with children and young people for children and young people, and includes calming wall colours, soft and comfortable furnishings, and a safe and secure garden, which will offer breathing space for those who need it; further notes the inclusion of high-quality technical facilities, including space to record evidence and deliver live links to court within a nurturing environment, and welcomes the Scottish Government's commitment to ensuring that all children who have experienced harm as a result of abuse or violence will have access to a Bairns' Hoose.

The meeting closed at 6.03 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
13 September 2023

Appendix

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 13 September 2023—

Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee, 7th Report, 2023 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation under the Cost of Living (Tenant Protection) (Scotland) Act considered by the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee on 12 September 2023 (SP Paper 435)

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 13 September 2023 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Accountant in Bankruptcy Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (SG/2023/170) laid under Section 200(3) of the Bankruptcy (Scotland) Act 2016 and Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Adult mental health: A report prepared for the Accounts Commission and the Auditor General for Scotland (AGS/2023/7) laid under the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Electoral Commission Annual Report and Accounts 2022-23 (ELC/2023/01) laid under Paragraph 20 A (1) of Schedule 1 to the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000

HM Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland: HM Chief Inspector's Annual Report 2022-23 (SG/2023/175) laid at the request of a member of the Scottish Government and not under any laying power

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