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 a Minister.

2. First Minister’s Questions: Questions were answered by the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon).

3. Fairer Hospital TV Charges: The Parliament debated S5M-14486 in the name of Edward Mountain—That the Parliament believes that charges for bedside televisions in hospitals must be proportionate and affordable for all patients; understands that many hospitals in the Highlands and Islands and across Scotland are charging adult patients up to £9.90 per day to access bedside television; considers that accessing bedside television in hospitals can be prohibitively expensive for long-stay patients; understands that NHS boards receive no income for providing this service, and notes the calls for all NHS boards to renegotiate bedside television contracts when they are next up for renewal to ensure the best possible value for money for patients across Scotland.

4. Celebrating the Role of Credit Unions in Scotland’s Communities: The Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government (Aileen Campbell) moved S5M-15426—That the Parliament celebrates the vital role of credit unions in reducing inequality in Scotland by offering affordable loans and savings in the heart of communities, thereby protecting people from predatory lenders and unmanageable debt; recognises that these not-for-profit financial cooperatives provide ethical financial services to a combined membership of over 400,000 people living in Scotland; supports action to further raise the profile of this important sector,
building on the Scottish Government’s recent national campaign, Credit Unions: People, Not Profit, and welcomes the continued collaboration between the Scottish Government and the sector to ensure that credit unions continue to thrive for the benefit of Scotland’s communities.

Alex Rowley moved amendment S5M-15426.1—

As an amendment to motion S5M-15426 in the name of Aileen Campbell (Celebrating the Role of Credit Unions in Scotland’s Communities), insert at end “, and calls on the Scottish Government to do more to promote the value of payroll deductions among employers and increase awareness of credit unions in schools as part of a broader programme to build financial capability.”

After debate, the amendment was agreed to (DT).

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

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—That the Parliament celebrates the vital role of credit unions in reducing inequality in Scotland by offering affordable loans and savings in the heart of communities, thereby protecting people from predatory lenders and unmanageable debt; recognises that these not-for-profit financial cooperatives provide ethical financial services to a combined membership of over 400,000 people living in Scotland; supports action to further raise the profile of this important sector, building on the Scottish Government’s recent national campaign, Credit Unions: People, Not Profit; welcomes the continued collaboration between the Scottish Government and the sector to ensure that credit unions continue to thrive for the benefit of Scotland’s communities, and calls on the Scottish Government to do more to promote the value of payroll deductions among employers and increase awareness of credit unions in schools as part of a broader programme to build financial capability.

5. Appointment of the Chair of the Poverty and Inequality Commission: The Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government (Aileen Campbell), moved S5M-15423—That the Parliament agrees with the recommendation of the Scottish Government and the Social Security Committee that Bill Scott be appointed as Chair of the Poverty and Inequality Commission.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

6. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 4 and 5 as noted above.

The meeting closed at 5.03 pm.

P E Grice
Clerk of the Parliament
17 January 2019
Appendix
(Note: this Appendix does not form part of the Minutes)

Negative instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 17 January 2019 and are subject to the negative procedure—

Zootechnical Standards (Scotland) Regulations 2019 (SSI 2019/5)
laid under paragraph 2 of schedule 2 of the European Communities Act 1972

Licensing (Amendment) (EU Exit) (Scotland) Regulations 2019 (SSI 2019/6)
laid under paragraph 1(7) of schedule 7 of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018