



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 55, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 3 December 2024

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

**1. Time for Reflection:** Rt Rev Frank Dougan, Bishop of the Diocese of Galloway, led Time for Reflection.

**2. Revision to Business Programme:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-15709—

That the Parliament agrees to the following revision to the programme of business for Tuesday 3 December 2024—

delete

5.00 pm Decision Time

and insert

5.20 pm Decision Time

The motion was agreed to.

**3. Topical Questions:** Questions were answered by a Cabinet Secretary.

**4. Urgent Question:** An urgent question, to ask the Scottish Government what its response is to the findings of Audit Scotland's report, NHS in Scotland 2024, that the Scottish Government has no clear plan to deliver its NHS vision, was answered by Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care (Neil Gray).

**5. Stage 3 Timetable:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-15685—That the Parliament agrees that, during stage 3 of the Social Security (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill, debate on groups of amendments shall, subject to Rule 9.8.4A, be brought to a conclusion by the time limits indicated, those time limits being calculated from when the stage begins and excluding any periods when other business is under consideration or when a meeting of the Parliament is suspended (other than a suspension following the first division in the stage being called) or otherwise not in progress:

Groups 1 to 3: 50 minutes

Groups 4 to 6: 1 hour 25 minutes

Groups 7 and 8: 1 hour 45 minutes.

The motion was agreed to.

**6. Social Security (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill:** The Bill was considered at Stage 3.

The following amendments were agreed to (without division): 2, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16 and 19.

The following amendments were agreed to (by division)—

1 (For 89 (including 4 proxy votes), Against 26, Abstentions 0)

The following amendments were disagreed to (by division)—

21 (For 51 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 60 (including 3 proxy votes), Abstentions 7)

22 (For 50 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 67 (including 3 proxy votes), Abstentions 0)

5 (For 27, Against 88 (including 4 proxy votes), Abstentions 0)

17 (For 46 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 70 (including 3 proxy votes), Abstentions 0)

23 (For 55 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 59 (including 3 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

The following amendments were moved and, no member having objected, withdrawn: 3.

The following amendments were not moved: 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 18 and 24.

**7. Social Security (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill:** The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice (Shirley-Anne Somerville) moved S6M-15683—That the Parliament agrees that the Social Security (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill be passed.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 117 (including 4 proxy votes), Against 0, Abstentions 0).

**8. Motion without Notice:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved without notice that, under Rule 11.2.4, Decision Time be brought forward to 4.56pm.

The motion was agreed to.

**9. Decision Time:** The Parliament took a decision on item 7 as noted above.

**10. Findings of the Cross-Party Group on Beer and Pubs Report, What Does "Brand Scotland" Mean for the Scottish Beer and Pub Sector?:** The Parliament debated S6M-14749 in the name of Craig Hoy—That the Parliament notes the publication of the findings of the Cross-Party Group on Beer and Pubs' report, What does "Brand Scotland" mean for the Scottish Beer and Pub sector?; believes that Scotland should be a highly desirable country to live, work, study, visit, trade and invest; understands that the Scottish beer and pub sector contributes significantly to Brand Scotland; welcomes the inquiry carried out by MSPs, who took written and oral evidence from a wide section of witnesses, including breweries, pub operators, trade groups and research organisations; understands that witnesses told the inquiry about the dynamic and vibrant contribution that the sector makes to communities and the economy across Scotland, including in the South Scotland region, with over 100 breweries and 4,340 pubs employing 65,000 people and contributing £1.8 billion in wider economic benefits; notes what it sees as the largely unacknowledged and unique benefits that Scotland's pubs and breweries provide, including preventing social exclusion, boosting tourism, supporting local festivals, music, arts and sport, and acting as a catalyst for local events and charity fundraising; further notes, with concern, reports that Scotland's pubs are closing at a faster rate than elsewhere in the UK, with investment being diverted as, it understands, a lack of certainty makes it difficult to plan ahead, including as a result of regulatory proposals, complex and time consuming planning processes, employment challenges and business rates; notes that the report calls for a new hospitality strategy that aligns with Brand Scotland, which includes a review of business rates, the promotion of employment opportunities and a recognition of the need for a period of regulatory calm, and which should be developed in partnership with the sector, trade representatives and the Scottish Government, and further notes the calls for MSPs to commit to implementing these changes for the social and economic wellbeing of the Scottish hospitality sector.

The meeting closed at 5.48 pm.

**David McGill**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
3 December 2024

## Appendix

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

### Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 3 December 2024—

Rural Affairs and Islands Committee, 13th Report, 2024 (Session 6):  
Subordinate legislation considered by the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee  
on 20 November 2024 (SP Paper 696)

Education, Children and Young People Committee, 6th Report, 2024 (Session  
6): Education (Scotland) Bill - Stage 1 Report (SP Paper 697)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 72nd Report, 2024 (Session  
6): Delegated powers in the Judicial Factors (Scotland) Bill (as amended at  
Stage 2) (SP Paper 700)

### Subordinate Legislation

#### Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 3 December 2024 and is  
subject to the affirmative procedure—

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme (Amendment) Order 2025 [draft]  
laid under paragraph 11 of Schedule 3 to the Climate Change Act 2008

#### Other Documents

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 2 December 2024 and is  
not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**NHS in Scotland 2024: Finance and performance A report prepared for the  
Auditor General for Scotland (AGS/2024/8)** laid under the Public Finance and  
Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 3 December 2024 and  
are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**Scottish Environment Protection Agency: Annual Report and Accounts 2023-  
2024 (SG/2024/266)** laid under Section 46 of the Environment Act 1995 and Section  
22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

**Scottish Law Commission, Report on Damages for Personal Injury  
(SG/2024/301)** laid under Section 3(2) of the Law Commissions Act 1965

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