



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 56, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 4 December 2024

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Constitution, External Affairs and Culture, and Parliamentary Business, and then on Justice and Home Affairs, were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and a Minister.

2. Ministerial Statement: The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government (Shona Robison) made a statement and answered questions on Scottish Budget 2025-26.

3. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-15710—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 10 December 2024

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Ministerial Statement: 2025 National Improvement Framework and Long-term Strategy for Scottish Education

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Judicial Factors (Scotland) Bill

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Pathways to Global Human Rights:
Towards a Stronger Human Rights Culture in Scotland

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 11 December 2024

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Deputy First Minister Responsibilities, Economy and
Gaelic; Finance and Local Government

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 12 December 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: Net Zero and Energy, and Transport

followed by Health, Social Care and Sport Committee Debate: Remote and Rural
Healthcare Inquiry

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 17 December 2024

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Scottish Elections (Representation and Reform) Bill

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 18 December 2024

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

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

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Education (Scotland) Bill

followed by Financial Resolution: Education (Scotland) Bill

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 19 December 2024

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

12.45 pm Portfolio Questions: Social Justice

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

1.10 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

(b) that, for the purposes of Portfolio Questions in the week beginning 9 December 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.

4. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-15711—That the Parliament agrees that the Budget (Scotland) Act 2024 Amendment Regulations 2024 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

5. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-15712—That the Parliament agrees that the Disability Assistance (Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance) Regulations 2025 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

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

7. The Open University Supports the Scots Language: The Parliament debated S6M-15571 in the name of Emma Harper—That the Parliament recognises that the Open University (OU) in Scotland, in conjunction with Education Scotland, has produced the first of its kind professional learning course for teachers on the Scots language; welcomes the partnership working between both organisations; understands that over 200 teachers have signed up to the course since January 2024 using Scottish Government-funded places; further understands that the course creates a Scotland-wide community of practice where teachers realise the transformative role of embedding Scots language and culture in the classroom; recognises what it sees as the educational, as well as equality, diversity and inclusion, benefits of embedding Scots in the classroom; believes that, with teachers participating from across 12 different secondary subject areas and all primary curricular areas, this demonstrates the strong interdisciplinary potential of teaching Scots; wishes all of the participants every success with their studies; applauds the OU's first research study into the needs and experiences of adult learners of the language, often New Scots, and notes its work in developing Scots and Gaelic language community education for refugees and migrants in the South Scotland region and across the country, as well as the OU's pioneering collaboration with NHS Education Scotland aimed at embedding the Scots language in health and social care to enhance staff and service users' experiences.

8. Powering Futures - Putting Young People at the Heart of the Energy Transition: The Parliament debated S6M-14602 in the name of Michael Matheson—That the Parliament recognises what it sees as the important work of Powering Futures, which, it understands, has put young people at the heart of the energy transition, giving them the knowledge, skills and experience of real-life scenarios so that they are equipped to respond to the energy transition; notes that Powering Futures connects business and education to empower young people across Scotland, including in the Falkirk West constituency, to respond to the challenges of an energy transition; understands that, since Powering Futures launched in 2020, it has engaged with over 3,000 young people across Scotland and 150 businesses; notes that 45 schools across Scotland are currently participating in Powering Future's education programme, with a further 100 schools registered to participate in 2024, and believes that Powering Futures is doing important work to connect different sectors with schools and young people through the SCQF Level 6 accredited programme, which results in young people gaining a SCQF Level 6 qualification.

The meeting closed at 5.26 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
4 December 2024

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

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 4 December 2024—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 73rd Report, 2024 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation Considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 3 December 2024 (SP Paper 701)

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee, 16th Report, 2024 (Session 6): Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee report on the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme (Amendment) (No. 2) Order 2024 (SP Paper 702)

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee, 17th Report, 2024 (Session 6): Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee report on the Scotland Act 1998 (Transfer of Functions to the Scottish Ministers etc.) Order 2025 [draft] (SP Paper 703)

Subordinate Legislation

Made Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 4 December 2024 and is subject to the made affirmative procedure—

The Land and Buildings Transaction Tax (additional amount: transactions relating to second homes etc.) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2024 (SSI 2024/367) laid under section 68(4) of the Land and Buildings Transaction Tax (Scotland) Act 2013, for approval by resolution of the Scottish Parliament within 28 days beginning with the day on which the Order was made, not taking account periods of dissolution or recess for more than 4 days

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 4 December 2024 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Carbon Assessment of the 2025-26 Budget (SG/2024/309) laid under Section 94 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

Scotland's Fiscal and Economic Forecasts— December 2024 (SFC/2024/8) laid under section 5(2) of the Scottish Fiscal Commission Act 2016

Scottish Budget 2025-26 (SG/2024/6) laid at the request of a member of the Scottish Government

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