



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 59, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 11 December 2024

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Deputy First Minister Responsibilities, Economy and Gaelic and then Finance and Local Government were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.

2. Delivering a Common Sense Budget for Scotland: Craig Hoy moved S6M-15792—That the Parliament believes that the draft Scottish Budget 2025-26 will not deliver good value for taxpayers; notes its continuation of the Scottish National Party administration's high-tax agenda, which has damaged economic growth in Scotland; condemns funding for free bus travel for asylum seekers, which could have instead been used to provide 6,600 pensioners in Scotland with a full Winter Heating Payment, and calls on the Scottish Government to cut income tax to 19% for those earning up to £43,662, introduce full business rates relief for pubs and restaurants across Scotland for 2025-26, and raise the threshold at which house buyers pay residential Land and Buildings Transaction Tax to £250,000.

The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government (Shona Robison) moved amendment S6M-15792.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-15792 in the name of Craig Hoy (Delivering a Common Sense Budget for Scotland), leave out from “believes” to end and insert “welcomes steps in the draft 2025-26 Budget to introduce a universal Winter Heating Payment and create the systems necessary to effectively scrap the two-child benefit cap in 2026, and looks forward to further engagement between the

Scottish Government and the parties represented in the Parliament in advance of the next stage in the budget process.”

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 73 (including 3 proxy votes), Against 28, Abstentions 21).

Michael Marra moved amendment S6M-15792.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-15792 in the name of Craig Hoy (Delivering a Common Sense Budget for Scotland), leave out from “believes” to end and insert “rejects wholly any attempt to pit vulnerable groups in Scottish society against one another for political ends; welcomes an additional £5 billion of investment in Scotland as a result of the UK Labour administration's Budget; regrets that the Scottish National Party (SNP) administration has had to use its draft Budget for 2025-26 to correct many of the mistakes that it made in its Budget for 2024-25; notes that the Auditor General, the Institute for Fiscal Studies and the Fraser of Allander Institute have variously criticised the SNP administration's failure to reform public services, and further notes with concern the SNP administration's failure to address the challenges to long-term fiscal sustainability and its absence of a vision to improve outcomes for people across Scotland.”

After debate, the amendment was pre-empted as a result of amendment S6M-15792.3 being agreed to.

The motion, as amended, was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 94 (including 3 proxy votes), Against 28, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament welcomes steps in the draft 2025-26 Budget to introduce a universal Winter Heating Payment and create the systems necessary to effectively scrap the two-child benefit cap in 2026, and looks forward to further engagement between the Scottish Government and the parties represented in the Parliament in advance of the next stage in the budget process.

3. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-15808—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

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

Tuesday 7 January 2025

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 8 January 2025

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

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

followed by Finance and Public Administration Committee Debate: National Performance Framework - Review of National Outcomes

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 9 January 2025

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 Stage 1 Debate: Disability Commissioner (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 16 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-15809—That the Parliament agrees that the Rural Support (Improvement) (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2024 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 73 (including 3 proxy votes), Against 49, Abstentions 0).

5. Approval of SI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-15810—That the Parliament agrees that the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme (Amendment) (No. 2) Order 2024 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

6. Approval of SI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-15811—That the Parliament agrees

that the Scotland Act 1998 (Transfer of Functions to the Scottish Ministers etc.) Order 2025 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

7. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 2, 4, 5 and 6 as noted above.

8. Reversal of £10 Million Funding for Changing Places Toilets: The Parliament debated S6M-14427 in the name of Jeremy Balfour—That the Parliament expresses its shock that the Scottish Government has, it understands, gone back on its pledge to invest £10 million to increase the number of Changing Places toilets across Scotland; notes that this promise was made originally in 2021 by the former First Minister as part of the 2021-22 Programme for Government, and was repeated numerous times by multiple ministers over the following years; understands that Changing Places toilets are not a luxury facility, but are vital for many profoundly disabled people to take part in society, including those in the Lothian region; considers that this is the latest in a long list of examples of the Scottish Government not taking seriously the needs of disabled people and allowing them to pay the price of what it sees as Scottish National Party (SNP) financial mismanagement; echoes the disappointment that has been expressed by many individuals and organisations in response to the announcement, and notes the calls for the Scottish Government to honour the promise that it made to disabled people.

The meeting closed at 6.08 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
11 December 2024

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

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 11 December 2024—

Education, Children and Young People Committee, 7th Report, 2024 (Session 6): The Regulated Roles (Prohibitions and Requirements) (Scotland) Regulations 2024 [draft] (SP Paper 699)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 76th Report, 2024 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation Considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 10 December 2024 (SP Paper 708)

Legislative Consent Memorandum

The following memorandum was lodged on 11 December 2024—

Shona Robison, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government:
Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Employment Rights Bill (UK Parliament legislation) (LCM-S6-53)

Other Documents

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 11 December 2024 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Accountant in Bankruptcy Annual Report and Accounts 2023-24 (SG/2024/122)
laid under Section 200(3) of the Bankruptcy (Scotland) Act 2016 and Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Published by the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body

All documents are available on
the Scottish Parliament website at:

www.parliament.scot/documents

For information on the Scottish Parliament contact
Public Information on:

Telephone: 0131 348 5000 or 0800 092 7500

Email: sp.info@parliament.scot

Live chat on parliament.scot

You can write to us in any language or contact us
using the Text Relay service or in British Sign

Language through contactScotland-BSL.

© Parliamentary copyright. Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body

The Scottish Parliament's copyright policy can be found on the website -
www.parliament.scot or by contacting Public Information.