



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 62, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 18 December 2024

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 Health and Social Care, were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.

2. Education (Scotland) Bill: The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills (Jenny Gilruth) moved S6M-15876—That the Parliament agrees to the general principles of the Education (Scotland) Bill.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 96 (including 3 proxy votes), Against 0, Abstentions 21).

3. Education (Scotland) Bill: Financial Resolution: The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills (Jenny Gilruth) moved S6M-15897—That the Parliament, for the purposes of any Act of the Scottish Parliament resulting from the Education (Scotland) Bill, agrees to any expenditure of a kind referred to in Rule 9.12.3A of the Parliament's Standing Orders arising in consequence of the Act.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

4. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-15918—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of 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 Debate: Tackling Child Poverty and Inequality Through the Scottish Budget

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 Ministerial Statement: Scotland's Secure Accommodation Capacity

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 Scottish Government Debate: Building a Migration System that Supports Scotland's Economy, Public Services and Communities

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 14 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 15 January 2025

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

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

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Police (Ethics, Conduct and Scrutiny) (Scotland) Bill

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Approval of SSIs (if required)

7.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 16 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: Net Zero and Energy, and Transport

followed by Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee Debate

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

(b) that, for the purposes of Portfolio Questions in the week beginning 6 January 2025, 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.

5. Stage 1 Timetable: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-15919—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Criminal Justice Modernisation and Abusive Domestic Behaviour Reviews (Scotland) Bill at stage 1 be completed by 4 April 2025.

The motion was agreed to.

6. Stage 2 Timetable: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-15920—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Victims, Witnesses, and Justice Reform (Scotland) Bill at stage 2 be completed by 4 April 2025.

The motion was agreed to.

7. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-15921—That the Parliament agrees that the Regulated Roles (Prohibitions and Requirements) (Scotland) Regulations 2024 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

8. Designation of Lead Committee: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-15922—That the Parliament agrees that the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the Leases (Automatic Continuation etc.) (Scotland) Bill at stage 1.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

9. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 2, 3, 7 and 8 as noted above.

10. A Safe, Accessible and Sustainable Holyrood Park for the 21st Century: The Parliament debated S6M-15634 in the name of Lorna Slater—That the Parliament welcomes the recently published Strategic Plan for Holyrood Park; recognises what it sees as the benefits of the park to people, nature and heritage; notes the support for the vision for the park, set out in the plan, of an evolving landscape combining human action and natural processes to create a fundamentally sustainable 21st century landscape that responds to the climate emergency, community aspirations, and natural and heritage conservation priorities, all while retaining and strengthening its iconic status for Edinburgh and Scotland; understands that the legislation relating to the park was passed in 1971, and notes the belief that it is in desperate need of updating to meet the new vision for the park, as set out in the strategy; further understands that the implementation of the strategy will aim to conserve and restore nature in the park, refresh the network of paths and trails, provide a safe place for people to gather, meet, play and relax, and will explore

opportunities to expand active travel within the park, and notes the belief that all of these aims would be furthered by ending through motor traffic in the park.

The meeting closed at 5.50 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
18 December 2024

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

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 18 December 2024—

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee, 16th Report, 2024 (Session 6):
Subordinate legislation considered by the Health, Social Care and Sport
Committee on 10 December 2024 (SP Paper 710)

Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee, 9th Report, 2024
(Session 6): Report on a Legislative Consent Memorandum (LCM) for the
Renters' Rights Bill (SP Paper 711)

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 18 December 2024 and
are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

British Film Institute Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2023/24
(SG/2024/236) laid under Section 88 of the Scotland Act 1998

Caledonian Sleeper Limited Annual Report and Accounts For the year ended
31 March 2024 (SG/2024/294) laid under the Public Finance and Accountability
(Scotland) Act 2000

Response to Rural Affairs and Islands Committee Letter and
Recommendations - Amendments to Annex A of the Joint Fisheries Statement
(SG/2024/135) laid under Paragraph 3 of Schedule 1 of the Fisheries Act 2020

ScotRail Trains Limited Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year
ended 31 March 2024 (SG/2024/290) laid under the Public Finance and
Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Scottish Water 2024 Interim Report and Accounts: Performance and Prospects
For the six months to September 2024 (SG/2024/283) laid under Section 57(8) of
the Water Industry (Scotland) Act 2002

Scottish Rail Holdings Limited Annual Report and Accounts For the year
ended 31 March 2024 (SG/2024/289) laid under the Public Finance and
Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Scottish Public Services Ombudsman: Compendium of Case Reports for
December 2024 (SPSO/2024/12) laid under Sections 15(1) and 15(1A) of the
Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002

United Kingdom Anti-Doping Limited Annual Report and Accounts 2023/24
(SG/2024/303) laid under Section 88 of the Scotland Act 1998

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