



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 64, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 7 January 2025

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Time for Reflection: Jess Pepper, Director, Climate Café® CIC (Hosts of the Global Climate Café® Network), led Time for Reflection.

2. Revision to Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-16025—That the Parliament agrees to the following revisions to the programme of business for Tuesday 7 January 2025—

after

followed by Topical Questions

insert

followed by Ministerial Statement: Health and Social Care Response to Winter

The motion was agreed to.

3. Topical Questions: Questions were answered by Ministers.

4. Ministerial Statement: The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care (Neil Gray) made a statement and answered questions on Health and Social Care Response to Winter.

5. Tackling Child Poverty and Inequality Through the Scottish Budget: The First Minister (John Swinney) moved S6M-16003—That the Parliament notes the investments outlined in the draft Scottish Budget for 2025-26 that focus on eradicating child poverty as a national mission and the single greatest priority for the Scottish Government, including continued investment in key policies such as funded early learning and childcare, concessionary travel for those under 22, employability services and social security; further notes increased investment in the Affordable Housing Supply Programme and investment in breakfast clubs and to support the expansion of free school meals; recognises that the Scottish Government's efforts to tackle child poverty are being undermined by the social security policies of the UK Government; welcomes the Scottish Government's commitment to spend £3 million to develop the systems to deliver the mitigation of the two-child cap in 2026; acknowledges analysis from the Child Poverty Action Group estimating that abolishing the two-child limit could lift 15,000 children in Scotland out of poverty; recognises that the measures in the draft Scottish Budget 2025-26 will help to drive progress towards this national mission, and calls on the UK Government to match the ambition of the Scottish Government and abolish the two-child limit and benefit cap at the earliest possible opportunity.

Russell Findlay moved amendment S6M-16003.4—

As an amendment to motion S6M-16003 in the name of John Swinney (Tackling Child Poverty and Inequality Through the Scottish Budget), leave out from “the investments” to end and insert “that the Scottish Government has failed to reduce child poverty during 17 years of Scottish National Party administration; recognises that the poverty-related attainment gap between the most and least deprived pupils has grown according to the most recent statistics and that the Scottish Government will fail to meet its previously stated target of closing that attainment gap by 2026; acknowledges that Scottish Government policies, which seek to take a more lenient approach to young offenders, have contributed to vulnerable young people in deprived communities being targeted by organised gangs to carry out criminality; believes that the draft Scottish Budget 2025-26 will continue to harm Scotland's economic growth, which is desperately needed if the country is to tackle child poverty, and calls on the Scottish Government to rethink the draft 2025-26 Scottish Budget by providing workers and businesses across Scotland with a tax cut that will help induce the economic growth that Scotland needs.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 30, Against 92 (including 3 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

Paul O'Kane moved amendment S6M-16003.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-16003 in the name of John Swinney (Tackling Child Poverty and Inequality Through the Scottish Budget), leave out from first “notes” to end and insert “agrees that child poverty should be a national mission for the Scottish Government and more widely across the Parliament, but deeply regrets that, after almost 18 years of a Scottish National Party (SNP) administration, there are 30,000 more children in poverty; acknowledges that child poverty rates across the UK have risen under the economic mismanagement of the previous UK Conservative administration; recognises

that Scotland has its own legally binding child poverty reduction targets, which the SNP administration is likely to miss, despite successive First Ministers declaring action on child poverty to be a priority; acknowledges an additional £5 billion of investment in Scotland as a result of the UK Labour administration's Budget; regrets that the 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; is deeply concerned by the Scottish Government's decision to cut measures that act as barriers to poverty; agrees that there is a need to take a multi-faceted approach, and therefore welcomes the work of the UK Labour administration to strengthen workers' rights, review universal credit, build a fairer social security system, and deliver a pay rise for 200,000 of the lowest-paid people in Scotland with a genuine living wage; welcomes the establishment of a cross-government Child Poverty Ministerial Taskforce by the UK Government; encourages the Scottish Government to work collaboratively to tackle the root causes of poverty across Scotland, and recognises that, to end poverty, action needs to be taken to get the economy moving, to get public services working, and to create more, decent well-paid jobs."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 20, Against 102 (including 3 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 72 (including 3 proxy votes), Against 50, Abstentions 0).

6. Committee Membership: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-16026—That the Parliament agrees that Stuart McMillan be appointed to replace James Dornan as a member of the Public Audit Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

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

8. The Importance of Medical Technology for Patients with Diabetes: The Parliament debated S6M-13791 in the name of Foysol Choudhury—That the Parliament recognises what it sees as the vital importance of medical technology, especially real-time continuous glucose monitoring (rt-CGM), for patients with diabetes; notes the Stanford University study that highlighted that type 1 diabetics, and those who use insulin to manage their condition, make about 180 more decisions each day about their health than those without diabetes, and that access to diabetes technology helps to reduce this burden; welcomes the recent SIGN guidance to improve the accessibility of such technology to patients via NHS Scotland; understands that many patients are not able to access rt-CGM or are being forced to switch to a product less suitable for their needs; is concerned about the impact that changes to product use and a lack of access to medical technology is having on patients and the potential impact on diabetes complications; recognises what it sees as the value of sustainable multi-year funding and lifecycle cost benefit analysis in diabetes care, and notes the calls on the Scottish Government to consider what action

can be taken to protect patients, including those in the Lothian region, and maximise the availability of cost-saving medical technology.

The meeting closed at 6.07 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
7 January 2025

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 6 January 2025—

Criminal Justice Committee, 1st Report, 2025 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation Considered by the Criminal Justice Committee on 18 December 2024 (SP Paper 714)

The following report was published on 7 January 2025—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 1st Report, 2025 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 7th January 2025 (SP Paper 713)

Subordinate Legislation

Negative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 20 December 2024 and is subject to the negative procedure—

Bread and Flour Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2024 (SSI 2024/387)
laid under section 48(3) of the Food Safety Act 1990

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 20 December 2024 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

NHS Pension Scheme (Scotland) Annual Report and Accounts 2023/24 (SG/2024/211) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Scottish Public Pensions Agency Annual Report and Accounts 2023/24 (SG/2024/210) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Scottish Teachers Pension Scheme Annual Report and Accounts 2023/24 (SG/2024/212) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Young Start Annual Report 2023/24 (SG/2024/316) laid under Paragraph 9, Part 3, Schedule 3 of the Dormant Bank and Building Society Accounts Act 2008

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 7 January 2025 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

General Pharmaceutical Council - Strategic plan 2020-25: year five
(SG/2025/11) laid under paragraph 8 of schedule 1 of the Pharmacy Order 2010

Mitigating the two-child limit and the Scottish budget - January 2025
(SFC/2025/1) laid under section 5(3) of the Scottish Fiscal Commission Act 2016

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