



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 67, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 14 January 2025

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

- 1. Time for Reflection:** Rev Malcolm Macleod, Moderator of the Free Church of Scotland, led Time for Reflection.
- 2. Topical Questions:** Questions were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and a Minister.
- 3. Ministerial Statement:** The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice (Shirley-Anne Somerville) made a statement and answered questions on Winter Heating Payment.
- 4. Valuing Culture: Scotland's Support to the Culture Sector:** The Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture (Angus Robertson) moved S6M-16092—That the Parliament celebrates arts and culture in Scotland in all their diverse forms, past, present and emerging; recognises the transformational impact that they can have on people's lives across Scotland; welcomes the economic contribution that the cultural and creative industries workforces make to society and the economy; acknowledges the importance of the community culture sector, and commends the innovative local organisations, in both rural and urban areas, for the work that they do to support participation in cultural pursuits; considers that a strong and successful culture sector is central to the prosperity of the nation; welcomes that, against a backdrop of cultural funding being cut by the UK Government, the draft Scottish Government Budget for 2025-26 increases frontline culture funding by £34 million, and believes that Scotland's cultural communities can be supported to continue to develop and innovate in exhibition, performance and participation in Scotland's artistic life.

Murdo Fraser moved amendment S6M-16092.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-16092 in the name of Angus Robertson (Valuing Culture: Scotland's Support to the Culture Sector), leave out from second "welcomes" to end and insert "recognises the important contribution that volunteers make to the vitality of Scotland's culture sector; acknowledges that the culture sector has been subjected to repeated budgetary mismanagement by the Scottish Government and that the draft Budget 2025-26 still leaves the sector in a precarious position; notes that large music venues are not supported by the provisions on business rates relief in the draft Budget; recognises that key cultural areas, such as libraries and music tuition, still face cuts due to the constraints facing local authority budgets; notes that Creative Scotland remains under review by the Scottish Government, and trusts that public funds will not in future be used to support pornographic material, and urges the Scottish Government to foster innovation and participation in Scotland's culture sector to ensure that it remains vibrant for generations to come."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 29, Against 88 (including 4 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

Neil Bibby moved amendment S6M-16092.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-16092 in the name of Angus Robertson (Valuing Culture: Scotland's Support to the Culture Sector), leave out from second "welcomes" to end and insert "acknowledges the scale of the crisis that the culture sector has been suffering over a number of years; notes that the Scottish Government has not held a debate on support for the culture sector in the current parliamentary session until now; welcomes the intention to increase the culture budget by £34 million in 2025-26, following the record budget settlement of £47.7 billion to the Scottish Government from the UK Labour administration; notes the observation by the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee that the culture sector's 'confidence remains low due to the lack of clarity from the Scottish Government regarding its priorities for the additional investment', and believes that Scotland's cultural communities must be supported to continue to develop and innovate in exhibition, performance and participation in Scotland's artistic life."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 24, Against 64 (including 4 proxy votes), Abstentions 28).

The motion was then agreed to ((DT) by division: For 69 (including 4 proxy votes), Against 23, Abstentions 26).

5. Revision to Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn) moved S6M-16112— That the Parliament agrees to the following revisions to the programme of business for—

(a) Wednesday 15 January 2025—

delete

7.00 pm Decision Time

and insert

5.45 pm Decision Time

(b) Thursday 16 January 2025—

delete

2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.30 pm Portfolio Questions: Net Zero and Energy, and Transport

and insert

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Net Zero and Energy, and Transport

followed by Ministerial Statement: Scottish Government's Response to the UK Covid-19 Inquiry Module 1 Report

The motion was agreed to.

6. Decision Time: The Parliament took a decision on item 4 as noted above.

7. Introduction of NOVA Scotland: The Parliament debated S6M-15972 in the name of Meghan Gallacher— That the Parliament recognises what it sees as the importance of having a service of support and guidance for veterans, such as those in the Central Scotland region, including those in the justice system; understands that, whilst veterans are not more likely to commit a crime than civilians, they are more likely to engage with the justice system; further understands that, in England, Op NOVA has a decade of experience working in partnership with health and justice systems to support veterans in living healthy, stable and crime-free lives, and that it provides emotional and practical support to veterans at all points of the justice system, including pre-arrest, arrest, post-arrest and those serving a custodial sentence; considers that, having been built on the foundations of Forces Employment Charity's Project Nova, it has an evidence base and proven framework to deliver life-changing support to veterans with established partnerships in the justice sector; notes the belief, therefore, that NOVA Scotland would be crucial in enabling veterans to live stable lives by providing access to practical and emotional support across a variety of areas, and further notes the calls for the Scottish Government to look at measures to introduce NOVA Scotland.

The meeting closed at 5.46 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
14 January 2025

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 10 January 2025—

Finance and Public Administration Committee, 1st Report, 2025 (Session 6):
Subordinate Legislation: The Land and Buildings Transaction Tax (Additional
Amount: Transactions relating to second homes etc.) (Scotland) Amendment
Order 2024 (SP Paper 716)

The following reports were published on 13 January 2025—

Economy and Fair Work Committee, 1st Report, 2025 (Session 6): Report on
the Legislative Consent Memorandum for the Product Regulation and
Metrology Bill (SP Paper 717)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 3rd Report, 2025 (Session 6):
Delegated powers in the Criminal Justice Modernisation and Abusive
Domestic Behaviour Reviews (Scotland) Bill at Stage 1 (SP Paper 718)

The following report was published on 14 January 2025—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 4th Report, 2025 (Session 6):
Subordinate Legislation Considered by the Delegated Powers and Law
Reform Committee on 14 January 2025 (SP Paper 719)

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 14 January 2025 and
are subject to the affirmative procedure—

Disclosure (Scotland) Act 2020 (List A and B Offences) Amendment Regulations
2025 [draft]

laid under section 91(2) of the Disclosure (Scotland) Act 2020

Disclosure (Scotland) Act 2020 (Incidental, Supplementary and Consequential
Provision) Regulations 2025 [draft]

laid under section 91(3) of the Disclosure (Scotland) Act 2020

Regulated Roles with Children and Adults (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2025
[draft]

laid under section 100(4) of the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland)
Act 2007

Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exclusions and Exceptions) (Scotland)
Amendment (No. 2) Order 2025 [draft]

laid under section 10(2) of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974

Negative Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 13 January 2025 and are subject to the negative procedure—

Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Prescribed Services and Activities) (Protected Adult) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/4)
laid under section 10(2) of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974

Disclosure Information (Accredited Bodies) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/5)
laid under section 91 of the Disclosure (Scotland) Act 2020

Laid Only Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 13 January 2025 and is not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Disclosure (Scotland) Act 2020 (Commencement No. 4) Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/2 (C.1))
laid under section 91(5) of the Disclosure (Scotland) Act 2020

Other Documents

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 13 January 2025 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Competition and Markets Authority Draft Annual Plan 2025 to 2026: Promoting Competition and Protecting Consumers to Drive Growth, Opportunity, and Prosperity for the UK (CMA/2025/01) laid under the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013, Schedule 4 s13(2)(b)

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