



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 72, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 23 January 2025

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

The meeting opened at 11.40 am.

- 1. General Questions:** Questions were answered by the Deputy First Minister, Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.
- 2. First Minister's Questions:** Questions were answered by the First Minister (John Swinney).
- 3. Promoting the Role of Women in Scotland's Journey to Net Zero:** The Parliament debated S6M-15413 in the name of Michelle Thomson—That the Parliament recognises what it sees as the importance of women in business as Scotland strives to achieve net zero targets; understands that there is a need to stimulate more innovation and entrepreneurship amongst STEM-based sectors to contribute directly to building capacity in Scotland, including in the Falkirk East constituency, and recognises that the wider business sectors also have a role to play in achieving net zero; welcomes the July 2024 Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) report, and particularly the analysis provided by Glasgow, Edinburgh and Strathclyde universities regarding female entrepreneurship in Scotland; celebrates the finding that women are starting and running new businesses at virtually the same rate as men for the first time in Scotland, and that, globally, the female to male gap in entrepreneurship rates is narrowing, and believes that Scotland is leading the way by this measure; considers, therefore, that women entrepreneurs and business leaders will be a vital resource in leading Scotland's economy towards growth and net zero, but believes that, post-school, the number of females entering STEM-related education, employment or business start-ups remains weak; understands that a 2023 report by Women's Enterprise Scotland expressed concern that approximately

60% of women-led businesses are somewhat disengaged from achieving net zero, either because of a lack of confidence or a belief that it does not apply to their operations; further understands that a fear of failure is a key cultural barrier to further developing entrepreneurial activity in Scotland at a time when innovation and entrepreneurship will, it believes, be vital to meeting the challenge of achieving net zero, and notes the calls for both effective representation of women in all net zero policy forums and further research into the contribution of women directly in STEM-based businesses and wider business sector activity as net zero is pursued.

4. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Social Justice were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and Ministers.

5. Ministerial Statement: The Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs (Angela Constance) made a statement and answered questions on Scottish Government response to Fatal Accident Inquiries into the Deaths of Katie Allan and William Brown.

6. Ministerial Statement: The Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport (Maree Todd) made a statement and answered questions on Future of the National Care Service.

7. Stage 3 Timetable: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-16187—That the Parliament agrees that, during stage 3 of the Welfare of Dogs (Scotland) Bill, debate on groups of amendments shall, subject to Rule 9.8.4A, be brought to a conclusion by the time limits indicated, those time limits being calculated from when the stage begins and excluding any periods when other business is under consideration or when a meeting of the Parliament is suspended (other than a suspension following the first division in the stage being called) or otherwise not in progress:

Groups 1 to 3: 1 hour 5 minutes

Groups 4 to 6: 1 hour 40 minutes.

The motion was agreed to.

8. Welfare of Dogs (Scotland) Bill - Stage 3: The Bill was considered at Stage 3.

The following amendments were agreed to (without division): 4, 15, 16, 7, 8, 9, 1, 2, 3 and 11.

The following amendments were agreed to (by division)—

5 (For 100 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 9 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0)

6 (For 103 (including 3 proxy votes), Against 7 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0)

The following amendments were disagreed to (by division)—

12 (For 27 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 85 (including 3 proxy votes), Abstentions 0)

13 (For 28 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 84 (including 3 proxy votes), Abstentions 0)

17 (For 26 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 86 (including 3 proxy votes), Abstentions 0)

18 (For 28 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 84 (including 3 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

Amendment 23 was moved and, no member having objected, withdrawn.

The following amendments were not moved: 14, 19, 10, 20, 21 and 22.

The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn) moved a motion without notice under Rule 9.8.5A to move the first time limit by up to 30 minutes.

The motion was agreed to.

9. Welfare of Dogs (Scotland) Bill: Christine Grahame moved S6M-16120— That the Parliament agrees that the Welfare of Dogs (Scotland) Bill be passed.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 114 (including 4 proxy votes), Against 0, Abstentions 0).

10. Decision Time: The Parliament took a decision on item 9 as noted above.

The meeting closed at 6.16 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
23 January 2025

Appendix

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

Subordinate Legislation

Negative Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 23 January 2025 and are subject to the negative procedure—

Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration) Amendment Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/8)

laid under section 16(4) of the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004

Sheriff Appeal Court Fees Amendment Order 2025 (SSI 2025/9)

laid under section 133(3) of the Courts Reform (Scotland) Act 2014

Laid Only Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 23 January 2025 and is not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Circular Economy (Scotland) Act 2024 (Commencement No. 1) Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/10 (C. 2))

laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 23 January 2025 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

British Wool Marketing Board - Report on the BWMB Agricultural Marketing Scheme 2023-24 (SG/2025/19) laid under Section 30 of the Agricultural Marketing Act 1958

A decade of care: A corporate parenting update from Scottish Ministers 2021-2024 (SG/2025/5) laid under section 65 Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014

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