



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 74, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 29 January 2025

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Constitution, External Affairs and Culture, and Parliamentary Business, and then on Justice and Home Affairs, were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and a Minister.

2. Supporting Scotland's Health and Social Care Workforce: Jackie Baillie moved S6M-16252—That the Parliament deeply regrets that there is a continuing crisis in both the NHS and social care; recognises that staff are the backbone of the NHS and that the Scottish Government has failed to effectively workforce plan; understands that the consequences of this failure are that patients are suffering from poorer outcomes, hard-working staff are experiencing moral injury, and NHS graduates are not being employed, and calls on the Scottish Government to urgently bring forward a 10-year health and social care workforce plan that meets the needs of the people of Scotland.

The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care (Neil Gray) moved amendment S6M-16252.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-16252 in the name of Jackie Baillie (Supporting Scotland's Health and Social Care Workforce), leave out from "there is a continuing crisis" to end and insert "current high wait times mean that too many are waiting too long for treatment; thanks hardworking NHS and social care staff who provide extraordinary care across the country; recognises that there are crises facing too many parts of the NHS; notes investment of over £11 billion in the NHS workforce and an estimated £950 million to ensure

that adult social care workers, including those in the third and private sectors, are paid at least the real Living Wage; recognises that the biggest threat to the health and social care workforce comes from the UK Government's decision to increase employer national insurance contributions, and demands that the UK Labour administration reimburse the Scottish Government in full; supports the calls for the publication of a medium-term approach to health and social care reform, including workforce planning, before the Parliament's 2025 summer recess, and believes that the aim of the medium-term reforms must be to ensure that everyone can access the treatment and care that they require, in the right place, at the right time."

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 61 (including 3 proxy votes), Against 53, Abstentions 7 (including 1 proxy vote)).

Sandesh Gulhane moved amendment S6M-16252.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-16252 in the name of Jackie Baillie (Supporting Scotland's Health and Social Care Workforce), insert at end “; notes that the Scottish National Party administration has failed to deliver improvements to social care in Scotland, despite wasting nearly £30 million and years of civil servants' time on its failed National Care Service, and calls on Neil Gray to resign as Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, following his disastrous tenure in office.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 51 (including 4 proxy votes), Against 68, Abstentions 1).

The motion, as amended, was then agreed to ((DT) by division: For 61 (including 3 proxy votes), Against 53, Abstentions 7 (including 1 proxy vote)).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament deeply regrets that current high wait times mean that too many are waiting too long for treatment; thanks hardworking NHS and social care staff who provide extraordinary care across the country; recognises that there are crises facing too many parts of the NHS; notes investment of over £11 billion in the NHS workforce and an estimated £950 million to ensure that adult social care workers, including those in the third and private sectors, are paid at least the real Living Wage; recognises that the biggest threat to the health and social care workforce comes from the UK Government's decision to increase employer national insurance contributions, and demands that the UK Labour administration reimburse the Scottish Government in full; supports the calls for the publication of a medium-term approach to health and social care reform, including workforce planning, before the Parliament's 2025 summer recess, and believes that the aim of the medium-term reforms must be to ensure that everyone can access the treatment and care that they require, in the right place, at the right time.

3. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-16265—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 4 February 2025

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Budget (Scotland) (No. 4) Bill

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 5 February 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 Ministerial Statement: Implementing the Medication Assisted Treatment Standards

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Addressing Child Poverty Through Education

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 6 February 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 Ministerial Statement: Simplifying the Post-School Education and Skills Funding Body Landscape in Scotland

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Improving Miscarriage Care

followed by Legislative Consent Motion: Great British Energy Bill - UK Legislation

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.30 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 18 February 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 19 February 2025

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands; Health and Social Care

followed by Scottish Government Business

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 20 February 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: Social Justice

followed by Scottish Government Business

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 3 February 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.

4. Stage 1 Timetable: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-16266—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Leases (Automatic Continuation etc.) (Scotland) Bill at stage 1 be completed by 19 September 2025.

The motion was agreed to.

5. Stage 2 Timetable: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-16267—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill at stage 2 be completed by 28 March 2025.

The motion was agreed to.

6. Approval of SI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-16268—That the Parliament agrees that the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme (Amendment) Order 2025 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

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

8. Holocaust Memorial Day 2025, For a Better Future: The Parliament debated S6M-16002 in the name of Jackson Carlaw—That the Parliament recognises that 27 January 2025 will mark Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD); understands that the Holocaust was the brutal, barbaric and inhumane murder of six million Jewish men, women and children from 1941 to 1945 in concentration and death camps, mass shootings and ghettos; acknowledges that HMD takes place on 27 January each year as the date represents the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, which was the largest concentration camp; notes that the official theme for HMD 2025 is “For a better future”; recognises that there are many actions that people can take to make a contribution towards achieving a better future for all, such as confronting prejudice, reinforcing the importance of learning about both the Holocaust and the more recent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur, and challenging Holocaust denial, distortion and trivialisation whenever such narratives arise; acknowledges that 2025 marks both 80 years since Auschwitz-Birkenau was liberated and the 30th anniversary of the genocide in Bosnia; accepts that the Holocaust is an incredibly dark chapter in human history, and considers that HMD is a crucially important event in the annual calendar, which

aims to highlight why its lessons can never be forgotten and why a zero tolerance approach must always be taken against antisemitism and all forms of prejudice.

9. Motion Without Notice: Jackson Carlaw moved without notice that, under Rule 8.14.3, the debate be extended by up to 30 minutes.

The motion was agreed to.

The meeting closed at 6.23 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
29 January 2025

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

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 29 January 2025—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 8th Report, 2025 (Session 6):
Subordinate Legislation Considered by the Delegated Powers and Law
Reform Committee on 28 January 2025 (SP Paper 728)

Finance and Public Administration Committee, 2nd Report, 2025 (Session 6):
Budget Scrutiny 2025-26 (SP Paper 730)

Economy and Fair Work Committee, 2nd Report, 2025 (Session 6): Report on
the Legislative Consent Memorandum for the Data (Use and Access) Bill (SP
Paper 731)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 9th Report, 2025 (Session 6):
Instruments considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee
during the second quarter of the Parliamentary Year 2024-25 (SP Paper 732)

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 29 January 2025 and is
subject to the affirmative procedure—

Public Appointments and Public Bodies etc. (Scotland) Act 2003 (Treatment of
Qualifications Scotland as Specified Authority) Order 2025 [draft]
laid under section 18(4) of the Public Appointments and Public Bodies etc.
(Scotland) Act 2003

Laid Only Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 29 January 2025 and is
not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Prisoners (Early Release) (Scotland) Act 2025 (Commencement) Regulations 2025
(SSI 2025/17 (C. 3))
laid under section 30 of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland)
Act 2010

Other Documents

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 29 January 2025 and is
not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**Sustainable transport - A report prepared for the Auditor General for Scotland
(AGS/2025/1)** laid under the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

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the Scottish Parliament website at:

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