



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 13, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 11 June 2024

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

- 1. Time for Reflection:** Dr Amy Orr-Ewing, author and theologian, and honorary lecturer at the University of Aberdeen, led Time for Reflection.
- 2. Topical Questions:** Questions were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and a Minister.
- 3. Scottish Government Priorities: Eradicating Child Poverty:** The First Minister (John Swinney) moved S6M-13566—That the Parliament agrees that eradicating child poverty is a national mission for the Scottish Government, the Scottish Parliament and society; welcomes the progress made in delivering the Best Start, Bright Futures: Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2022-2026, with spend benefitting children in low-income households increasing to an estimated £1.4 billion in 2023; recognises the balance of action required across the three drivers of poverty reduction, which are income from employment, the cost of living and income from social security, as well as the need to drive improvements in wellbeing and outcomes for children and families; warns of the threat that UK Government austerity poses to the action and ambition of the Scottish Government in eradicating child poverty; notes modelling that estimates that 100,000 children will be kept out of relative poverty in the current year as a result of Scottish Government policies; further notes modelling that estimates that a further 40,000 children in Scotland could be lifted out of poverty were the UK Government to make key changes to social security, including by introducing an Essentials Guarantee and abolishing the two-child limit, and calls on the incoming UK administration to work collaboratively with the Scottish Government and to follow Scotland's lead in taking ambitious anti-poverty action.

Douglas Ross moved amendment S6M-13566.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-13566 in the name of John Swinney (Scottish Government Priorities: Eradicating Child Poverty), leave out from “warns” to end and insert “notes that around 24% of children live in poverty in Scotland and that this rate has remained largely unchanged since 2007; recognises that the number of children in temporary accommodation has reached over 9,000, which is an 8% increase on the previous figure; calls on the Scottish Government to use the powers that it has to take action, rather than produce more strategies, to tackle child poverty; notes that the Scottish Government has abandoned plans to close the poverty-related attainment gap and that its plans to roll out free childcare have been described as 'fragile'; agrees that the Scottish Government has failed to deliver all of the devolved benefits that could help tackle child poverty; regrets that the Scottish Government is reportedly returning £450 million of EU structural funds that could be used to tackle child poverty, and calls on the Scottish Government to work constructively with the UK Government to ensure that all children get the best start in life.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 27, Against 87 (including 1 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

Paul O'Kane moved amendment S6M-13566.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-13566 in the name of John Swinney (Scottish Government Priorities: Eradicating Child Poverty), leave out from first “eradicating” to end and insert “child poverty should be a national mission for the Scottish Government, but deeply regrets that after 17 years of a Scottish National Party (SNP) administration, child poverty levels, after housing costs, have remained static, and that the most recent child poverty single-year statistics estimate that the number of children in Scotland living in poverty has now increased in 2022-23 to 260,000; acknowledges that the Poverty and Inequality Commission's Scrutiny Report, published last week, provided a damning assessment of the SNP administration's progress on tackling child poverty across a number of areas, noting that progress from the Scottish Government 'is slow or not evident at all'; disagrees with the Scottish Government's decisions to slash the affordable housing budget, freeze the Scottish Welfare Fund, abandon parental employability schemes and decimate the Fuel Insecurity Fund, all of which act as barriers to prevent more children in Scotland falling into poverty; recognises that SNP inaction has been coupled with 14 years of dire economic mismanagement under the UK Conservative administration, which has led to increased child poverty rates across the UK; condemns the fact that, despite professing to tackle child poverty under successive First Ministers, child poverty is increasing, and the Scottish Government is now set to miss its interim reduction targets and its own legally-binding child poverty targets in 2030; urges the Scottish Government to heed the advice of its own expert advisors and take immediate and decisive action to reduce poverty across Scotland in the face of a decade of SNP inaction and failure, and welcomes the Labour Party's plan to introduce a New Deal for Working People to deliver a real Living Wage, review Universal Credit and build a fairer social security system, tackle the

cost of living crisis with a publicly owned clean energy company that would help to pay to keep bills down, paid for with a proper windfall tax on record oil and gas profits, deliver affordable public transport and housing support, end problem debt, and provide help and support for families and households across Scotland.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 21 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 93, Abstentions 0).

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 63, Against 27, Abstentions 24 (including 1 proxy vote)).

**4. Revision to Business Programme:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-13579— That the Parliament agrees to the following revisions to the programme of business for—

(a) Wednesday 12 June 2024—

delete

7.00 pm Decision Time

insert

5.15 pm Decision Time

(b) Thursday 13 June 2024—

delete

2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.30 pm Scottish Parliament Corporate Body Questions

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

insert

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Scottish Parliament Corporate Body Questions

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

*followed by* Ministerial Statement: European Structural and Investment Funds

The motion was agreed to.

**5. Motion Without Notice:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved without notice that, under Rule 11.2.4, Decision Time be brought forward to 4.56 pm.

The motion was agreed to.

**6. Decision Time:** The Parliament took a decision on item 3 as noted above.

**7. Proposed Cuts to Renfrewshire HSCP Services:** The Parliament debated S6M-12891 in the name of Neil Bibby—That the Parliament notes reports that

Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) faces a £14.7 million budget blackhole as a result of Scottish Government underfunding and has proposed significant cuts to its local services, including in the West of Scotland region; recognises what it sees as the widespread concern amongst service users and families about the reported proposal to close Montrose Care Home, merge Mirin and Milldale Day Centres as well as withdraw funding for the Renfrewshire Head Injuries Service; believes that Montrose Care Home in Paisley is an excellent and vital public sector care home; further believes that the Mirin and Milldale day centres provide a lifeline service for hundreds of adults with learning disabilities and that the Quarries Renfrewshire Head Injuries Service provides invaluable support to over 80 users with complex and life-altering conditions; understands that serious concerns have been raised regarding the extent to which the consultations for these decisions have followed the proper processes and impact that they will have on hundreds of local families, including the workers, in Renfrewshire, and notes the belief that every effort should be made by the Scottish Government, Renfrewshire Council and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde to reverse these proposals.

The meeting closed at 5.36 pm.

**David McGill**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
11 June 2024

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

**Committee Reports**

The following report was published on 10 June 2024—

Public Audit Committee, 3rd Report, 2024 (Session 6): The 2022/23 audit of the Scottish Prison Service (SP Paper 613)

The following report was published on 11 June 2024—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 42nd Report, 2024 (Session 6): Delegated powers in the Abortion Services (Safe Access Zones) (Scotland) Bill (as amended at Stage 2) (SP Paper 619)

**Subordinate Legislation**

**Affirmative Instruments**

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 7 June 2024 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Tied Pubs (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2024 [draft]  
laid under section 24(2) of the Tied Pubs (Scotland) Act 2021

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 10 June 2024 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Environmental Protection (Single-use Vapes) (Scotland) Regulations 2024 [draft]  
laid section 160A(7) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990

**Laid Only Instruments**

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 7 June 2024 and is not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Trusts and Succession (Scotland) Act 2024 (Commencement No. 1) Regulations 2024 (SSI 2024/164 (C. 14))  
laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

**Other Documents**

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 10 June 2024 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**HMICS Strategic review of the Scottish Police Authority (HMICS/2024/05)** laid under section 79(3) of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 11 June 2024 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**Scrutiny report on draft Regulations: the Funeral Expense Assistance (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2024** laid under sections 22 and 97 of the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018

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