



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 94, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 25 March 2025

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

- 1. Time for Reflection:** Rt Rev Dr Shaw James Paterson, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, led Time for Reflection.
- 2. Topical Questions:** Questions were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and Ministers.
- 3. Ministerial Statement:** The Minister for Housing (Paul McLennan) made a statement and answered questions on Scottish Government Response to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 2 Report.
- 4. Scotland – A Fair Trade Nation:** The Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture (Angus Robertson) moved S6M-16923—That the Parliament welcomes Scotland's renewed status as a Fair Trade Nation; recognises the dedication and hard work of Fair Trade campaigners, businesses and communities across Scotland in sustaining this achievement; congratulates Scottish Fair Trade for its leadership in promoting and strengthening Scotland's Fair Trade commitment; acknowledges the vital role of Fair Trade producers, workers and enterprises in the Global South in building a fairer, more sustainable trading system; recognises that Fair Trade is a partnership that supports the rights, dignity and livelihoods of those throughout the supply chain, and commits to uphold and advance Scotland's role as a Fair Trade Nation as part of its broader commitment to global citizenship and international solidarity.

Murdo Fraser moved amendment S6M-16923.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-16923 in the name of Angus Robertson (Scotland - A Fair Trade Nation), insert at end “; recognises that free and fair trade is the most powerful engine for poverty reduction and global prosperity; affirms that open markets, trade liberalisation and the entrepreneurial spirit are central to Fair Trade; believes that protectionism and arbitrary trade barriers harm the very producers and communities that Fair Trade seeks to support; calls on all MSPs to actively champion global agreements that allow Scotland's businesses to compete, innovate and lead on the world stage, and further calls on the Scottish Government to support the full potential of, and critical work already performed by, local producers by properly accounting for them in its public sector procurement rules and guidelines.”

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 107 (including 3 proxy votes), Against 8, Abstentions 0).

Colin Smyth moved amendment S6M-16923.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-16923 in the name of Angus Robertson (Scotland - A Fair Trade Nation), insert at end “; notes Scottish Fair Trade's strategy, which includes the aim of increasing the consumption and production of Fair Trade products, and calls on the Scottish Government to continue to support Fair Trade by establishing a standard definition and measurement framework for Fair Trade in public sector procurement, embedding Fair Trade in education and lifelong learning and supporting Fair Trade and ethical supply chains in Scottish business practices.”

After debate, the amendment was agreed to (DT).

The motion, as amended, was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 108 (including 3 proxy votes), Against 7, Abstentions 1).

Accordingly, the Parliament agreed—

That the Parliament welcomes Scotland's renewed status as a Fair Trade Nation; recognises the dedication and hard work of Fair Trade campaigners, businesses and communities across Scotland in sustaining this achievement; congratulates Scottish Fair Trade for its leadership in promoting and strengthening Scotland's Fair Trade commitment; acknowledges the vital role of Fair Trade producers, workers and enterprises in the Global South in building a fairer, more sustainable trading system; recognises that Fair Trade is a partnership that supports the rights, dignity and livelihoods of those throughout the supply chain; commits to uphold and advance Scotland's role as a Fair Trade Nation as part of its broader commitment to global citizenship and international solidarity; recognises that free and fair trade is the most powerful engine for poverty reduction and global prosperity; affirms that open markets, trade liberalisation and the entrepreneurial spirit are central to Fair Trade; believes that protectionism and arbitrary trade barriers harm the very producers and communities that Fair Trade seeks to support; calls on all MSPs to actively champion global agreements that allow Scotland's businesses to compete, innovate and lead on the world stage; further calls on the Scottish Government to support the full

potential of, and critical work already performed by, local producers by properly accounting for them in its public sector procurement rules and guidelines; notes Scottish Fair Trade's strategy, which includes the aim of increasing the consumption and production of Fair Trade products, and calls on the Scottish Government to continue to support Fair Trade by establishing a standard definition and measurement framework for Fair Trade in public sector procurement, embedding Fair Trade in education and lifelong learning and supporting Fair Trade and ethical supply chains in Scottish business practices.

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

**6. Peel Ports' Conservancy Fee Plans for Clydeport Area:** The Parliament debated S6M-16854 in the name of Stuart McMillan—That the Parliament acknowledges reports that Peel Ports Clydeport is planning to introduce a conservancy fee for leisure craft sailing in the Clydeport area; understands that the boating sector has expressed concerns that such a charge could impact the marine tourism economy, including in the Greenock and Inverclyde constituency, as it could discourage boaters from sailing in Clydeport's waters; believes that boaters have also expressed their anger at what it understands is Peel Ports' lack of meaningful dialogue with the sector about these plans; further believes that this has led to questions arising over how the fee will be spent; understands that members of the Cross-Party Group on Recreational Boating and Marine Tourism have agreed that their collective position is that these plans should be abandoned, and that a public petition has been launched to attract support for this view, which, it understands, has attracted over 4,600 signatures so far, and notes the view that Peel Ports should scrap its proposal and work with the sector to address any issues.

The meeting closed at 5.51 pm.

**David McGill**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
25 March 2025

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

**Committee Reports**

The following report was published on 21 March 2025—

Rural Affairs and Islands Committee, 4th Report, 2025 (Session 6):  
Subordinate legislation considered by the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee  
on 19 March 2025 (SP Paper 763)

The following report was published on 24 March 2025—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 21st Report, 2025 (Session  
6): Inquiry into Framework Legislation and Henry VIII powers (SP Paper 762)

**Subordinate Legislation**

**Affirmative Instruments**

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 24 March 2025 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Land and Buildings Transaction Tax (Group Relief and Sub-sale Development Relief Modifications) (Scotland) Order 2025 [draft]  
laid under section 68(2)(c) of the Land and Buildings Transaction Tax  
(Scotland) Act 2013

**Negative Instruments**

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 21 March 2025 and is subject to the negative procedure—

Railway Closure (Exclusion) (Hairmyres) Order 2025 (SSI 2025/81)  
laid under section 38(3) of the Railways Act 2005

**Laid Only Instruments**

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 21 March 2025 and is not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Act of Sederunt (Rules of the Court of Session 1994 and Ordinary Cause Rules 1993 Amendment) (Miscellaneous) 2025 (SSI 2025/80)  
laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform  
Scotland) Act 2010

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 24 March 2025 and is not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Disclosure (Scotland) Act 2020 (Commencement No. 5, Saving and Transitional Provision) Amendment (No. 2) Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/84 (C. 9))

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

### **Legislative Consent Memorandum**

The following memorandum was lodged on 21 March 2025—

Shirley-Anne Somerville, Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice: Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Public Authorities (Fraud, Error and Recovery) Bill (UK Parliament legislation) (LCM-S6-55)

### **Other Documents**

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 25 March 2025 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**Electoral Management Board for Scotland Annual Report 2023/24 (EMBS/2025/03)** laid under section 8(2) of the Local Electoral Administration (Scotland) Act 2011

**A Joint assurance review of the use of retrospective facial search technologies for criminal justice and police purposes in Scotland (SBC/2025/02)** laid under Section 20(2) of the Scottish Biometrics Commissioners Act 2020

**Scottish Law Commission Annual Report 2024 (SG/2025/44)** laid under section 3(3) of the Law Commissions Act 1965

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