



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 3, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 16 May 2024

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

The meeting opened at 11.40 am.

- 1. General Questions:** Questions were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and a Minister.
- 2. First Minister's Questions:** Questions were answered by the First Minister (John Swinney).
- 3. Foster Care Fortnight:** The Parliament debated S6M-13031 in the name of Martin Whitfield—That the Parliament recognises Foster Care Fortnight, taking place from 13 to 26 May 2024; believes that foster care gives children the opportunity to experience family life in a stable, loving and nurturing home environment, when it is not possible for them to live with their birth families; recognises that the theme for 2024 is #FosteringMoments, which celebrates the big and small moments that make foster care so transformative; thanks the reported 3,261 fostering households in Scotland for what it sees as their dedication and commitment to caring for children and young people who, it believes, have had some of the most difficult starts in life in this country; notes reports that there are currently 4,155 children and young people living in foster care in Scotland; understands that fostering can be incredibly rewarding, but also challenging in the context of higher living costs, what it considers to be stretched public services, and the emotional and practical demands of the role; is concerned that the number of fostering households in Scotland is reportedly decreasing, and understands that 400 more fostering households are needed; notes the belief that a resilient and well-resourced foster care sector is vital to Scotland's work to keep The Promise, so that care experienced children and young people grow up safe, loved and respected, and further notes the calls for more support for foster

carers to ensure that they can continue to do what they love, for the children and young people they love.

4. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Education and Skills were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and Ministers.

5. Ministerial Statement: The Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs (Angela Constance MSP) made a statement and answered questions on Scotland's Prison Population.

6. Ministerial Statement: The Lord Advocate (Dorothy Bain KC) made a statement and answered questions on Horizon Information Technology Prosecutions.

7. Aggregates Tax and Devolved Taxes Administration (Scotland) Bill: The Minister for Employment and Investment (Tom Arthur) moved S6M-13221—That the Parliament agrees to the general principles of the Aggregates Tax and Devolved Taxes Administration (Scotland) Bill.

The motion was agreed (DT).

8. Aggregates Tax and Devolved Taxes Administration (Scotland) Bill: Financial Resolution: The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government (Shona Robison) moved S6M-12713—That the Parliament, for the purposes of any Act of the Scottish Parliament resulting from the Aggregates Tax and Devolved Taxes Administration (Scotland) Bill, agrees to—

(a) any expenditure of a kind referred to in Rule 9.12.3A of the Parliament's Standing Orders arising in consequence of the Act, and

(b) any tax imposed in consequence of the Act in relation to which Rule 9.12.3B(a) of the Parliament's Standing Orders applies.

The motion was agreed (DT).

9. Appointment of the Chair of the Scottish Commission for Human Rights: Karen Adam, on behalf of the Selection Panel, moved S6M-13172—That the Parliament nominates Professor Angela O'Hagan to His Majesty The King for appointment as the Chair of the Scottish Commission for Human Rights.

The motion was agreed (DT).

10. Scottish Commission for Public Audit: Maggie Chapman moved S6M-13096—That the Parliament agrees to the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body's proposal to appoint Jamie Greene to be a member of the Scottish Commission for Public Audit.

The motion was agreed (DT).

11. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 7, 8, 9 and 10 as noted above.

The meeting closed at 5.12 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
16 May 2024

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

Subordinate Legislation

Document Subject to Approval

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 16 May 2024—

Proposed Revised Social Security Charter (SG/2024/96)
laid under sections 18(4)(b)(iii) and 18(5) of the Social Security (Scotland) Act
2018

Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 16 May 2024 and is
subject to the affirmative procedure—

Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (Licensing of Short-term Lets) Amendment
Order 2024 [draft]
laid under sections 3A(3) and 44(3) of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act
1982

Laid Only Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 16 May 2024 and is not
subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Bail and Release from Custody (Scotland) Act 2023 (Commencement No. 1)
Regulations 2024 (SSI 2024/145 (C. 13))
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 16 May 2024 and are
not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**Policy Report on the Review of the Scottish Social Security Charter - ‘Our
Charter’ (SG/2024/94)** laid under Section 18(4)(b)(i) and (ii) of the Social Security
(Scotland) Act 2018

**Scottish Government: Social Research - Reviewing Our Charter: Research
Findings (SG/2024/95)** laid under Section 18(4)(b)(i) and (ii) of the Social Security
(Scotland) Act 2018

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