



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 47, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 13 November 2024

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. Reversing the Family Farm Tax:** Tim Eagle moved S6M-15400—That the Parliament calls on the UK Government to reverse its decision to impose a so-called family farm tax on agricultural businesses.

The Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands (Mairi Gougeon) moved amendment S6M-15400.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-15400 in the name of Tim Eagle (Reversing the Family Farm Tax), insert at end “and urgently commit to undertake and publish impact assessments on the cumulative impact of its budget proposals on farmers and crofters in Scotland.”

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 93 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 26 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0).

Rhoda Grant moved amendment S6M-15400.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-15400 in the name of Tim Eagle (Reversing the Family Farm Tax), leave out from “calls” to end and insert “agrees that the Conservative Party should apologise to the country for its fiscal recklessness,

which left the public finances in a dire state and required the Autumn Budget to put the country back on a sound footing, and recognises that, despite this, the Chancellor of the Exchequer has continued to put in place inheritance tax reliefs for family farms potentially worth up to £3 million and increased the Scottish devolved budget by £3.4 billion in 2025-26.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 19 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 100 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

The motion, as amended, was then agreed to ((DT) by division: For 93 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 26 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament calls on the UK Government to reverse its decision to impose a so-called family farm tax on agricultural businesses and urgently commit to undertake and publish impact assessments on the cumulative impact of its budget proposals on farmers and crofters in Scotland.

3. Scotland’s Housing Emergency: Meghan Gallacher moved S6M-15401— That the Parliament believes that the Scottish Government should redraft the Housing (Scotland) Bill, as it fails to address the key factors that created the housing emergency.

The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice (Shirley-Anne Somerville) moved amendment S6M-15401.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-15401 in the name of Meghan Gallacher (Scotland’s Housing Emergency), leave out from “believes” to end and insert “welcomes the Scottish Government’s Housing (Scotland) Bill, which delivers a package of support for tenants across Scotland, including rent controls and homelessness prevention duties.”

Mark Griffin moved amendment S6M-15401.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-15401 in the name of Meghan Gallacher (Scotland’s Housing Emergency), insert at end “; calls on the Scottish Government to recognise the housing emergency in the redrafted legislation, and further calls on it to include the requirement for the Scottish Ministers to produce a strategy for the increased supply of houses in Scotland, and to report annually on its progress.”

Maggie Chapman moved amendment S6M-15401.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-15401 in the name of Meghan Gallacher (Scotland’s Housing Emergency), leave out from “redraft” to end and insert “not amend the Housing (Scotland) Bill to weaken the proposed system of rent controls, which must be able to keep rent increases below inflation if they are to improve affordability and allow for rent freezes during a housing emergency.”

After debate, amendment S6M-15401.3 was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 60 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 57 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 1). As a result, amendments S6M-15401.2 and S6M-15401.1 were pre-empted.

The motion, as amended, was then agreed to ((DT) by division: For 66 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 52 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 1).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament welcomes the Scottish Government's Housing (Scotland) Bill, which delivers a package of support for tenants across Scotland, including rent controls and homelessness prevention duties.

4. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-15423—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 19 November 2024

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Scottish Government Debate: The Impact of the UK Government's Budget on Scotland's Rural Economy

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 20 November 2024

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Deputy First Minister Responsibilities, Economy and Gaelic; Finance and Local Government

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Impact of National Insurance Increase on Public Services

followed by Prisoners (Early Release) (Scotland) Bill: Emergency Bill Motion

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Approval of SSIs (if required)

5.15 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 21 November 2024

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 Stage 1 Debate: Prisoners (Early Release) (Scotland) Bill

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 26 November 2024

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 27 November 2024

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

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

followed by Scottish Labour Party Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Approval of SSIs (if required)

5.10 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 28 November 2024

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

followed by Members' Business

2.15 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.15 pm Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body Questions

2.30 pm Portfolio Questions: Social Justice

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Housing (Scotland) Bill

followed by Financial Resolution: Housing (Scotland) Bill

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 18 November 2024, 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.

Liam Kerr moved amendment S6M-15423.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-15423 in the name of Jamie Hepburn (Business Programme), leave out—

"Stage 1 Debate: Prisoners (Early Release) (Scotland) Bill"

and insert—

"Scottish Government Debate: Scotland's Prisoner Population".

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to (by division: For 48 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 70 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

Martin Whitfield moved amendment S6M-15423.1—

As an amendment to the motion S6M-15423 in the name of Jamie Hepburn (Business Programme) leave out from "*followed by* Prisoners (Early Release) (Scotland) Bill: Emergency Bill Motion" to "Stage 1 Debate: Prisoners (Early Release) (Scotland) Bill and insert—

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Approval of SSIs (if required)

5.15 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 21 November 2024

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 Scottish Government Business”.

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to (by division: For 51 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 67 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

The motion was then agreed to (by division: For 68 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 51 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0).

5. Stage 2 Timetable: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-15424—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Scottish Languages Bill at stage 2 be completed by 20 December 2024.

The motion was agreed to.

6. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-15425—That the Parliament agrees that the Winter Heating Assistance (Pension Age) (Scotland) Regulations 2024 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 61 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 0, Abstentions 57 (including 1 proxy vote)).

7. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-15426—That the Parliament agrees that the Town and Country Planning (Amendment of National Planning Framework) (Scotland) Regulations 2024 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

8. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-15427—That the Parliament agrees that the Masterplan Consent Area Scheme (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2024 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

9. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-15428—That the Parliament agrees that the Free-Range Egg Marketing Standards (Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2024 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

10. Committee Membership: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-15429—That the Parliament agrees that Gordon MacDonald be appointed to replace Kevin Stewart as a member of the Social Justice and Social Security Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

11. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 as noted above.

12. Rural Roads Infrastructure: The Parliament debated S6M-15207 in the name of Douglas Lumsden—That the Parliament considers that driving is an essential part of daily life for those living in rural communities; believes that those communities deserve the infrastructure to allow connectivity that is safe and enables access to vital services; notes the view that tackling potholes will increase road safety and connectivity, and thereby improve the quality of roads across Scotland; further notes the belief that, to achieve such connectivity within the North East Scotland region, the Scottish Government must honour the longstanding commitment made in 2007 to dual the A90 north of Ellon, in order to make safe the reported accident hotspots such as the Cortes and Toll of Birness junctions, and notes the calls on the Scottish Government to commit to a timescale for when these works will be completed.

The meeting closed at 6.51 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
13 November 2024

Appendix

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

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 13 November 2024 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Sportscotland National Lottery Distribution Fund Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (SG/2024/250) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Sportscotland Group Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (SG/2024/249) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

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