



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 48, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 14 November 2024

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

The meeting opened at 11.40 am.

- 1. General Questions:** Questions were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and Ministers.
- 2. First Minister's Questions:** Questions were answered by the First Minister (John Swinney).
- 3. Day of the Imprisoned Writer:** The Parliament debated S6M-14698 in the name of Ruth Maguire—That the Parliament recognises 15 November 2024 as the Day of the Imprisoned Writer, a day when people across the world, including in the Cunninghame South constituency, stand in solidarity with writers who have been persecuted, exiled, imprisoned and killed for exercising their right to free expression; notes with grave concern what it sees as the growing threats to free expression in a world increasingly marked by conflict and war, where writers, it considers, are often the first targets of repression; recognises what it considers to be the alarming rise of authoritarian regimes that use censorship, imprisonment and violence to silence dissenting voices, with a particular focus on the plight of female writers, who, it understands, face compounded risks of persecution; emphasises the reported growing number of female writers who are being imprisoned for, it believes, courageously campaigning for equal rights, freedom from discrimination, and access to education and healthcare; acknowledges what it sees as the critical role that writers play in exposing the truths of war, authoritarianism and social injustice; condemns the widespread use of imprisonment, torture and extrajudicial killings to intimidate and eliminate writers, as documented by organisations such as PEN International, Amnesty International, the Committee to Protect Journalists, ARTICLE

19, and Reporters Without Borders; notes the calls for governments worldwide to uphold their duty to protect the right to free expression for all, to ensure justice for writers who have been murdered, persecuted and imprisoned, and to address what it sees as the global climate of impunity that undermines trust in justice systems and emboldens further attacks; further notes the support for the ongoing efforts to secure protection for persecuted and imprisoned writers, and honours and commemorates those writers who have lost their lives or freedom for exercising their right to freedom of expression.

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

5. Ministerial Statement: The Cabinet Secretary (Neil Gray) made a statement and answered questions on Ministerial Events.

6. UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement: Clare Adamson, on behalf of the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee, moved S6M-15093— That the Parliament notes the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee's 2nd Report, 2024 (Session 6), UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement: Barriers to trade in goods and opportunities to improve the UK-EU trading relationship (SP Paper 639).

The motion was agreed to (DT).

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

The meeting closed at 5.01 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
14 November 2024

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

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 14 November 2024—

Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee, 7th Report, 2024
(Session 6): Housing (Scotland) Bill Stage 1 Report (Scotland) Bill (SP Paper 684)

Social Justice and Social Security Committee, 13th Report, 2024 (Session 6):
Subordinate Legislation considered by the Social Justice and Social Security
Committee on 7 November 2024 (SP Paper 686)

The following report will be published on 15 November 2024—

Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee, 8th Report, 2024
(Session 6): Report tracking the work of the Local Government, Housing and
Planning Committee 2023-24 (SP Paper 687)

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 14 November 2024 and
are subject to the affirmative procedure—

Burial (Management) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 [draft]
laid under section 106(2) of the Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Act 2016

Burial and Cremation (Inspection) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 [draft]
laid under section 106(2) of the Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Act 2016

Negative Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 14 November 2024 and
are subject to the negative procedure—

Burial (Applications and Register) (Scotland) Regulations 2024 (SSI 2024/334)
laid under Sections 8, 10 and 106(1) of the Burial and Cremation (Scotland)
Act 2016

Public Procurement (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2024 (SSI
2024/338)
laid under section 44(3) of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 and
paragraph 7(2) of Schedule 5 of the Retained EU Law (Revocation and
Reform) Act 2023

Laid Only Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 14 November 2024 and is not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Act 2016 (Commencement No. 6 and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2024 (SSI 2024/335 (C. 23))
laid under Sections 112(2), (3) and (4) of the Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Act 2016

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 14 November 2024 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Ending Homelessness Together: Annual report to the Scottish Parliament, November 2024 (SG/2024/288) laid at the request of a member of the Scottish Government and not under any laying power

Judicial Appointments Board for Scotland Annual Report 2023-2024 (SG/2024/273) laid under Judiciary and Courts (Scotland) Act 2008, Chapter 3, Section 18

Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Annual Reports and Accounts 2023/24 (SG/2024/274) laid under Section 42A (1) of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service 2023/24 Annual Audit Report (SG/2024/282) laid under section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

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