



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 53, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 27 November 2024

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands, and then on Health and Social Care, were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.

2. Addressing the Crisis in Social Care Now: Jackie Baillie moved S6M-15613—That the Parliament notes that the Scottish Government formally committed to introduce a National Care Service (Scotland) Bill in September 2021; further notes that the Scottish Government's proposed amendment to part one of the Bill setting out the establishment of a National Care Service board has been roundly rejected by stakeholders; understands that the cost to date is £30 million, without a single penny being spent directly on care; urges the Scottish Ministers to accept that the Bill now has no realistic prospect of success in its current form; calls on the Scottish Government to take immediate steps to alleviate the crisis in social care, including delivering sufficient support for health and social care partnerships, and further calls on the Scottish Government to set out a timetable, before the Parliament's Christmas recess, for progressing reforms, including a right to respite care, Anne's Law, ethical commissioning, collective bargaining and the establishment of a National Social Work Agency.

The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care (Neil Gray) moved amendment S6M-15613.4—

As an amendment to motion S6M-15613 in the name of Jackie Baillie (Addressing the Crisis in Social Care Now), leave out from “formally committed”

to end and insert “introduced the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill in June 2022 to address the substantial concerns highlighted from the Feeley review, which noted poor and variable levels of social care around the country and the need for nationally enforceable standards of care; further notes that the Bill includes a right to respite care, Anne's Law and ethical commissioning; welcomes that the Scottish Government is developing a collective bargaining approach for social care in collaboration with local government, trade unions and social care providers and its continued commitment to establishing a National Social Work Agency; acknowledges the open letter from disabled people's organisations, which states that wholesale reform is so urgently needed; agrees that the service users, their families and carers should be the focus of a National Care Service; deplors that the increase in employer national insurance contributions from the UK Government will negatively impact on care services by increasing the cost to third parties contracted to deliver adult and children's social care services by almost £90 million and, according to COSLA estimates, to local government by £265 million, and agrees that, if the UK Labour administration does not reimburse this in full, it is the provision of these services that will feel the brunt.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 60 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 63 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0).

Sandesh Gulhane moved amendment S6M-15613.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-15613 in the name of Jackie Baillie (Addressing the Crisis in Social Care Now), after “directly on care” insert “, despite over 6,000 people in Scotland currently waiting for a social care assessment to enable them to live independently at home or in the community”.

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 55 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 70 (including 3 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

The motion was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 33 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 90 (including 3 proxy votes), Abstentions 1).

3. Tackling Abuse of Bus Drivers: Claire Baker moved S6M-15612—That the Parliament is deeply grieved by the death of Keith Rollinson following an assault at his place of work; agrees that workplace abuse is not acceptable and notes the serious concerns raised about levels of abuse in the recent mass survey of bus drivers in Scotland, carried out by Unite the Union; supports the union's campaign to improve driver safety, including its call for a public transport safety summit involving key stakeholders; calls on the Scottish Government and Transport Scotland to take swift action to address antisocial behaviour and violence towards bus drivers, including exploring the potential for legislative measures to protect transport workers against assault, threats and abuse; notes the increase in the rate of incidents following the extension of the bus travel scheme; supports fully the provision of free bus travel for young people and children aged under 22 and notes the multiple benefits that it brings, but acknowledges that this comes with responsibilities, and

calls on the Scottish Government to remove access to concessionary bus passes from individuals who repeatedly carry out antisocial behaviour.

Mark Ruskell moved amendment S6M-15612.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-15612 in the name of Claire Baker (Tackling Abuse of Bus Drivers), leave out from “; notes the increase” to end and insert “, alongside support for restrictions on all individuals who cause serious and repeated antisocial behaviour from accessing bus services, and further calls on bus operators to fully invest in measures to support the safety of transport workers and passengers, including on-board CCTV.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 7, Against 118 (including 4 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 117 (including 4 proxy votes), Against 1, Abstentions 7).

4. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-15625—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 3 December 2024

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Social Security (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 4 December 2024

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Constitution, External Affairs and Culture, and Parliamentary Business; Justice and Home Affairs

followed by Ministerial Statement: Scottish Budget 2025-26

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Approval of SSIs (if required)

4.20 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 5 December 2024

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

followed by Members' Business

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Education and Skills

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Support for the Veterans and Armed Forces Community in Scotland

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Empowering Young People's Voices in Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 10 December 2024

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Judicial Factors (Scotland) Bill

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 11 December 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 Conservative and Unionist 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 12 December 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 Health, Social Care and Sport Committee Debate: Remote and Rural Healthcare Inquiry

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 2 December 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.

The motion was agreed to.

5. Stage 1 Timetable: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-15626—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Schools (Residential Outdoor Education) (Scotland) Bill at stage 1 be completed by 28 March 2025.

The motion was agreed to.

6. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 2 and 3 as noted above.

7. Marking the 40th Anniversary of the Miners’ Strike: The Parliament debated S6M-12169 in the name of Richard Leonard—That the Parliament notes that 12 March 2024 marks the 40th anniversary of the official start of the 1984-85 miners’ strike; considers that this strike was, without parallel, the most significant industrial dispute since the 1926 general strike; believes that miners took action in defence of jobs, communities and a very way of life; considers that the full force of the state was deployed against the miners and their trade union, the National Union of Mineworkers, but that they stood steadfast for a full year; believes that the strike could not have endured without public support, including from women’s groups, the lesbian and gay community, trade unions and workers across the world; deplores what it sees as the injustices towards miners and their communities during and since the strike; notes the belief that there is continuing need for investment in mining communities, and further notes the call for a public inquiry into the policing of the strike.

8. Motion Without Notice: Richard Leonard moved without notice that, under Rule 8.14.3, the debate be extended by up to 30 minutes.

The motion was agreed to.

The meeting closed at 6.34 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
27 November 2024

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

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 27 November 2024—

Rural Affairs and Islands Committee, 12th Report, 2024 (Session 6): Interim report on petition PE1758: End greyhound racing in Scotland (SP Paper 693)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 71st Report, 2024 (Session 6): Delegated powers in the Police (Ethics, Conduct and Scrutiny) (Scotland) Bill (as amended at Stage 2) (SP Paper 694)

Finance and Public Administration Committee, 11th Report, 2024 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation: The Budget (Scotland) Act 2024 Amendment Regulations 2024 [draft] (SP Paper 695)

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 27 November 2024 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2025 [draft]
laid under section 58(4)(b) of the Regulatory Reform (Scotland) Act 2014

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 27 November 2024 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Mental Health Tribunal for Scotland, Annual Report 2023/2024 (SG/2024/305)
laid under paragraph 14(3) of Schedule 2 to the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003

Scotland's Population 2023 - The Registrar General's Annual Review of Demographic Trends (SG/2024/278) laid under Section 1(4) of the Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages (Scotland) Act 1965

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