



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 41, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 30 October 2024

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

The meeting opened at 2.30 pm.

1. Motion of Condolence: The First Minister (John Swinney) moved S6M-14899—That the Parliament expresses its shock and sadness at the untimely death of Alex Salmond; offers its deep sympathy and condolences to his family and friends; appreciates the many years of public service that he gave as an MP, MSP, and First Minister of Scotland, and recognises the substantial and significant contribution that he made over many decades to public life, Scottish and UK politics and the cause of Scottish independence.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

2. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Deputy First Minister Responsibilities, Economy and Gaelic and then Finance and Local Government were answered by the Deputy First Minister, a Cabinet Secretary and Ministers.

3. Funding for Teachers and Schools in Scotland: Miles Briggs moved S6M-15060—That the Parliament believes that the Scottish Government withholding £145 million in funding from local authorities will risk teacher numbers across Scotland declining further; notes that teacher numbers in Scotland have already been declining for two years in a row; acknowledges that many teachers are already struggling to obtain permanent employment; recognises the efforts of the Scottish Teachers for Permanence Campaign, which represents 3,800 teachers searching for permanent work in Scotland; expresses alarm about potential cuts to classroom assistant numbers and the school week due to shortfalls in local authority funding

from the Scottish Government, and believes that Scottish Government funding should be used to improve Scotland's schools.

The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills (Jenny Gilruth) moved amendment S6M-15060.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-15060 in the name of Miles Briggs (Funding for Teachers and Schools in Scotland), leave out from first "believes" to end and insert "calls on COSLA to accept the £145.5 million that is being made available by the Scottish Government to maintain teacher numbers, in line with the Budget (Scotland) Act 2024, as voted for by the Parliament."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 62 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 62 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0 – by casting vote).

Pam Duncan-Glancy moved amendment S6M-15060.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-15060 in the name of Miles Briggs (Funding for Teachers and Schools in Scotland), insert at end "; further believes that there should be regular and transparent national level data collected on vacancies in teaching roles and the numbers of registered teachers on supply lists, alongside closer monitoring of the proportion of newly qualified teachers who are in teaching roles, and reiterates that the Scottish Government should publish a comprehensive plan to address gaps in the teaching and school staff workforce as resolved by the Parliament on 15 May 2024."

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

The motion was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 61 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 63 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

4. Using the Upcoming Scottish Budget to Support Economic Growth: Craig Hoy moved S6M-15061—That the Parliament believes that the Scottish Government has failed to deliver sustained levels of economic growth in Scotland; notes that this failure has cost Scotland's public services £624 million in 2022-23 alone; recognises that the Scottish Ministers have increased income tax on people in Scotland by over £1.4 billion since 2016 and have created a damaging tax differential with the rest of the UK; acknowledges that, despite increased taxes and higher spending on devolved public services, this has failed to deliver better outcomes for the taxpayers who fund these services, and calls on the Scottish Government to examine the potential positive impact on jobs and economic growth of beginning to lower tax in the upcoming Scottish Budget.

The Minister for Public Finance (Ivan McKee) moved amendment S6M-15061.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-15061 in the name of Craig Hoy (Using the Upcoming Scottish Budget to Support Economic Growth), leave out from "believes" to end and insert "condemns the impact of the former UK Conservative administration's austerity and Brexit on the public finances and the wider economy; recognises that progressive taxation in Scotland has

ensured that funding has been available to deliver actions to tackle poverty, like the Scottish Child Payment; notes that the latest available evidence shows that Scotland had positive net inward migration of taxpayers from the rest of the UK and was positive for every tax band; further notes that the process to develop the Scottish Budget for 2025-26 is underway; challenges those who would propose reducing tax rates to identify the public services that they would then cut to deliver the required balanced budget; deplores the call from the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party to introduce an illness tax in the form of prescription charges, and believes that the Baby Box, free prescriptions, free personal care, free eye examinations and free university tuition should be protected and sustained for the future."

Mark Griffin moved amendment S6M-15061.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-15061 in the name of Craig Hoy (Using the Upcoming Scottish Budget to Support Economic Growth), leave out from "the Scottish Ministers" to end and insert "while taxpayers in Scotland are paying more than their counterparts in the rest of the UK, almost one in six people in Scotland are on NHS waiting lists, the latest PISA statistics show that Scotland's education system is falling further behind other countries, and local government services are under severe financial pressure; believes that people are not seeing the necessary improvements to their public services; regrets that the incompetence of the Scottish National Party administration has led to chaos in the public finances, with emergency in-year budgets for three consecutive years, and calls on the Scottish Government to end 17 years of waste and incompetence in the management of Scotland's finances."

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 69 (including 2 proxy votes), Against 52 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 3). As a result, amendment S6M-15061.1 was pre-empted.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 69 including 2 proxy votes), Against 52 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 3).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament condemns the impact of the former UK Conservative administration's austerity and Brexit on the public finances and the wider economy; recognises that progressive taxation in Scotland has ensured that funding has been available to deliver actions to tackle poverty, like the Scottish Child Payment; notes that the latest available evidence shows that Scotland had positive net inward migration of taxpayers from the rest of the UK and was positive for every tax band; further notes that the process to develop the Scottish Budget for 2025-26 is underway; challenges those who would propose reducing tax rates to identify the public services that they would then cut to deliver the required balanced budget; deplores the call from the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party to introduce an illness tax in the form of prescription charges, and believes that the Baby Box, free prescriptions, free personal care, free eye examinations and free university tuition should be protected and sustained for the future.

5. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-15072—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 5 November 2024

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Bill

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 6 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 Government Debate: Keeping The Promise

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Approval of SSIs (if required)

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 7 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: Social Justice

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Brexit Impacts on Scotland's Rural Economy

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 12 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 13 November 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 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 14 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: Education and Skills

followed by Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee Debate: UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement

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 4 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.

The motion was agreed to.

6. Stage 1 Timetable: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-15073—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Education (Scotland) Bill at stage 1 be completed by 20 December 2024.

The motion was agreed to.

7. Stage 1 Timetable: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-15074—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Land Reform (Scotland) Bill at stage 1 be completed by 28 March 2025.

The motion was agreed to.

8. Stage 2 Timetable: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-15075—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Judicial Factors (Scotland) Bill at stage 2 be completed by 29 November 2024.

The motion was agreed to.

9. Stage 2 Extension: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-15076—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Regulation of Legal Services (Scotland) Bill at stage 2 be extended to 28 February 2025.

The motion was agreed to.

10. Consideration of SSI: Alexander Burnett, on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-15078—That the Parliament agrees that nothing further be done under the Local Services Franchises (Traffic Commissioner Notices and Panels) (Scotland) Regulations 2024 (SSI 2024/229)*, that is to say, that the instrument be annulled*.

The motion was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 62 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 62 (including 2 proxy votes), Abstentions 0— by casting vote).

11. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-15079—That the Parliament agrees that the Coronavirus (Recovery and Reform) (Scotland) Act 2022 (Extension of Temporary Justice Measures) Regulations 2024 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

12. Approval of SI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-15080—That the Parliament agrees that the Vehicle Emissions Trading Schemes (Amendment) Order 2024 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

13. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-15081—That the Parliament agrees that the Public Procurement (International Trade Agreements) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2024 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

14. Committee Membership: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-15094—That the Parliament agrees that Elena Whitham be appointed to replace Ruth Maguire as a member of the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

15. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 1, 3, 4, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 as noted above.

The meeting closed at 6.51 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
30 October 2024

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 30 October 2024—

Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee, 7th Report, 2024
(Session 6): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Equalities, Human
Rights and Civil Justice Committee on 29 October 2024 (SP Paper 672)

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 30 October 2024 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland Annual Report 2023/24 (CES/2024/02) laid under section 25(1) of the Scottish Parliamentary Commissions and Commissioners etc. Act 2010 as amended

Drug and alcohol services - a report prepared for the Auditor General for Scotland (AGS/2024/06) laid under Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Scottish Children's Reporter Administration Annual Report 2023-24 (SG/2024/243) laid under paragraph 21 of schedule 3 of the Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011

Scottish Children's Reporter Administration Annual Report and Accounts 2023-2024 (SG/2024/242) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Scottish Futures Trust Investments Limited, Annual Report and Financial Statements, For the year ended 31 March 2024 (SG/2024/260) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Scottish Futures Trust Limited, Annual Report and Accounts, For the year ended 31 March 2024 (SG/2024/259) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

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