



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 26, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 11 September 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 NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.

**2. Free School Meals for all Primary Pupils:** Liam Kerr moved S6M-14406— That the Parliament believes that free school lunches should be provided for all primary school children, including provision in the school holidays, in this parliamentary session, as promised by the Scottish Government.

The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills (Jenny Gilruth) moved amendment S6M-14406.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-14406 in the name of Liam Kerr (Free School Meals for all Primary Pupils), insert at end "; notes, however, that the impact of the austerity agenda pursued by the previous Conservative and current Labour UK administrations has reduced the value of Scotland's budget, meaning that the required combined capital and revenue funding of £256 million is not available to deliver fully during the current parliamentary session; recommits the Scottish Government to full universal delivery for all primary pupils when the budgetary position allows; recognises the progress that has already been made with the delivery of free school meals to all children in P1 to P5, special schools, as well as eligible pupils in P6 to S6; welcomes that the Scottish Government will now make further progress with expansion to P6 and P7 pupils in receipt of the Scottish Child Payment, which will see an additional 26,000

children benefit, and calls on the UK Government to change its fiscal rules to end austerity and allow increased investment in public services to eradicate child poverty."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 62 (including 3 proxy votes), Against 64 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0).

Pam Duncan-Glancy moved amendment S6M-14406.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-14406 in the name of Liam Kerr (Free School Meals for all Primary Pupils), insert at end ", and regrets the Scottish National Party administration's repeated broken promises to Scotland's children and young people."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 63 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 63 (including 3 proxy votes), Abstentions 0 – by casting vote).

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 64 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 2, Abstentions 60 (including 3 proxy votes)).

**3. Ending Peak Rail Fares on ScotRail Trains:** Graham Simpson moved S6M-14405—That the Parliament calls on the Scottish Government to reverse its decision to reintroduce peak fares on Scotland's railway.

The Cabinet Secretary for Transport (Fiona Hyslop) moved amendment S6M-14405.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-14405 in the name of Graham Simpson (Ending Peak Rail Fares on ScotRail Trains), leave out from "calls" to end and insert "notes that the pioneering Scottish Government 12-month trial removal of peak rail fares has not been introduced anywhere else in Britain; regrets that the trial, which cost up to £40 million of Scottish Government support, was only a partial success in encouraging rail use; notes the reluctant decision by the Scottish Government to end the trial due to the fiscal constraints chosen by successive UK administrations; encourages rail passengers to take advantage of the new range of reduced season, flexi and super off-peak tickets, and calls on the Scottish Government to make use of the valuable data from the trial in further developing its rail fare policy."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 62 (including 3 proxy votes), Against 64 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0).

Alex Rowley moved amendment S6M-14405.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-14405 in the name of Graham Simpson (Ending Peak Rail Fares on ScotRail Trains), insert at end ", and agrees that making public transport more accessible, affordable and reliable is key to supporting more people to use public transport."

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

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 64 (including 1 proxy vote), Against 62 (including 3 proxy votes), Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament calls on the Scottish Government to reverse its decision to reintroduce peak fares on Scotland's railway and agrees that making public transport more accessible, affordable and reliable is key to supporting more people to use public transport.

**4. Business Programme:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-14417—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 17 September 2024

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Topical Questions (if selected)

*followed by* Stage 1 Debate: Scottish Languages Bill

*followed by* Committee Announcements

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Wednesday 18 September 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 Government Debate: Creating a Modern, Diverse, Dynamic Scotland

*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 19 September 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* Ministerial Statement: Scottish Government Response to the Independent Review of Qualifications and Assessment

*followed by* Stage 1 Debate: Judicial Factors (Scotland) Bill

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 24 September 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 25 September 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* Education, Children and Young People Committee Debate: Additional Support for Learning

*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 26 September 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

*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 16 September 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 2 Timetable:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-14418—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Social Security (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill at stage 2 be completed by 4 October 2024.

The motion was agreed to.

**6. Committee Membership:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-14419—That the Parliament agrees that —

James Dornan be appointed to replace Fulton MacGregor as a member of the Public Audit Committee;

Fulton MacGregor be appointed to replace Gordon MacDonald as a member of the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee;

and Michael Matheson be appointed to replace Ben Macpherson as a member of the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**7. Substitution on Committees:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-14420—That the Parliament agrees that Ben Macpherson be appointed to replace Collette Stevenson as the Scottish National Party substitute on the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

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

**9. Retrofitting and Tenement Maintenance:** The Parliament debated S6M-14024 in the name of Graham Simpson— That the Parliament welcomes the publication of the report, Meeting Scotland's Retrofit Challenge: solutions from the industry, jointly published by 14 leading built environment sector organisations; recognises that this paper follows a "Retrofit Roundtable" meeting convened at the Scottish Parliament in May 2023; notes the support for the report's key policy recommendations to establish a Ministerial Oversight Group on Retrofit and to develop a long-term Retrofit Delivery Plan with a joined-up approach to funding, regulating and incentivising retrofit work across Scotland, including in the Central Scotland region; further notes the calls on the Scottish Government to significantly increase the pace and scale of retrofit projects being undertaken across the country; welcomes the publication of the Scottish Law Commission's discussion paper on the proposed scheme for owners' associations; recognises that this discussion paper follows the work of the Tenement Maintenance Working Group, convened at the Scottish Parliament in March 2018, which was established to explore actions that could be taken to improve the condition of Scotland's tenements; acknowledges that the Scottish Law Commission's discussion project responds to the Tenement Maintenance Working Group's recommendation that every tenement building in Scotland should have an owners' association to coordinate work to the building and a corresponding reference received from the Scottish Government to that effect in January 2022, and notes the discussion paper's proposals concerning the functions, powers and duties of a tenement owners' association, including the role of an association manager, decision-making procedures, liability of owners for costs and the implementation of an annual budgeting system.

**10. Motion without Notice:** Graham Simpson 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 6.29 pm.

**David McGill**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
11 September 2024

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

**Other Documents**

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 10 September 2024 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**NHS Blood and Transplant Annual Report and Accounts 2023/24 (SG/2024/137)** laid under Section 88 of the Scotland Act 1998

**Press Recognition Panel Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 (SG/2024/175)** laid under Sections 12.4 and 13.1 of the Royal Charter on Self- Regulation of the Press

**Proceeds of Crime Act 2002: Report of the Appointed Person for Scotland for 2023/24 (SG/2024/179)** laid under Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, sections 127I(6)(b), 291(5) and 303F(7) Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (External Requests and Orders) Order 2005, Article 65H

**Standards Commission for Scotland's Annual Report 2023/24 (SCfS/2024/02)** laid under paragraph 10F to Schedule 1 of the Ethical Standard in Public Life etc. (Scotland) Act 2000 as amended by the Scottish Parliamentary Commissions and Commissioners etc. Act 2010

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 11 September 2024 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**Gambling Commission Annual Report and Accounts 2023 to 2024 (SG/2024/33)** laid under Section 88 of the Scotland Act 1998

**HM Inspectorate of Prosecution in Scotland Annual Report 2023-2024 SG/2024/188** laid under Section 79(8) of the Criminal Proceedings etc. (Reform) (Scotland) Act 2007

**Scotland's Census 2022: Education, labour market and travel to work (SG/2024/183)** laid under Section 4(1) of the Census Act 1920

**Scottish Prison Service Annual Report and Accounts 2023 - 2024 (SG/2024/163)** laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

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