



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 33, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 26 September 2024

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

The meeting opened at 11.40 am.

- 1. General Questions:** Questions were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.
- 2. First Minister's Questions:** Questions were answered by the First Minister (John Swinney).
- 3. Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Awareness Month:** The Parliament debated S6M-13767 in the name of Rona Mackay—That the Parliament notes that September 2024 is International Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Awareness Month; recognises that alcohol exposure in pregnancy may lead to permanent harm to the unborn child, with lifelong consequences; understands that FASD is the most common preventable neurodevelopmental condition in Scotland; further understands that at least 3.2% of individuals in Scotland are affected; notes that the Chief Medical Officer's advice is to avoid alcohol if pregnant or if planning to become pregnant; believes that 40% of pregnancies are currently unplanned; recognises what it sees as the importance of early identification and support of FASD to avert negative outcomes, such as addiction, mental ill health, suicidality and judicial system involvement; considers that, with the right support, individuals can prosper in their educational and life endeavours and reach their own potential; recognises what it sees as the excellent work of the FASD Hub Scotland in supporting those with FASD, their families and professionals who work with them; notes the belief that it is important to increase access to awareness and diagnostic training for practitioners to enable access to diagnostic and support services for those with FASD and their families; further notes the belief that alcohol producers

should be mandated to provide clear written pregnancy warnings on their products; highlights what it sees as the important work of the pre-conception strategy for Scotland; understands that there is an economic benefit of £1.4 million for each case of FASD that is prevented, and notes the belief that more must be done to reduce alcohol exposure in pregnancy.

**4. Portfolio Questions:** Questions on Net Zero and Energy, and Transport were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and Ministers.

**5. Ministerial Statement:** The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care (Neil Gray) made a statement and answered questions on The Princess Alexandra Eye Pavilion.

**6. Scotland Stands with Ukraine:** The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice (Shirley-Anne Somerville) moved S6M-14655—That the Parliament reiterates its unwavering solidarity with the people and government of Ukraine in the face of Russia's devastating illegal war; pledges that Scotland will continue to be a welcoming nation for those people who have sought refuge in the country from war and persecution, including refugees, people seeking asylum, people relocated from Afghanistan and displaced people from Ukraine; thanks the people of Scotland for opening their hearts and communities to all; recognises the vital role of those organisations and local authorities that have supported displaced Ukrainians to settle into Scotland's communities; reaffirms that all Ukrainians who have made Scotland their temporary home will be welcome here for as long as they need, and wishes a speedy and peaceful resolution to the war that ensures Ukrainian sovereignty, democracy, independence and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**7. Motion Without Notice:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Jamie Hepburn), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved without notice that, under Rule 11.2.4, Decision Time be brought forward to 4.53 pm.

The motion was agreed to.

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

The meeting closed at 4.53 pm.

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

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

**Committee Reports**

The following report will be published on 27 September 2024—

Rural Affairs and Islands Committee, 8th Report, 2024 (Session 6): report on the Plant Health (Import Inspection Fees) (Scotland) Amendment (No. 2) Regulations 2024 [draft] (SP Paper 651)

**Other Documents**

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 26 September 2024 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**Fiscal Framework Outturn Report: September 2024 (SG/2024/189)** laid at the request of a member of the Scottish Government and not under any laying power

**King's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (SG/2024/158)** laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

**The Personal Injury Discount Rate Review and determination of the rate in Scotland by the Government Actuary (SG/2024/202)** laid under paragraph 24(1) of Schedule B1 of the Damages Act 1996 (as amended by the Damages (Investment Returns and Periodical Payments) (Scotland) Act 2019

**Scottish Biometrics Commissioner Annual Report and Accounts 2023/24 (SG/2024/131)** laid under Section 31 and 32 of the Scottish Biometrics commissioner Act 2020

---

---

Published by the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body

---

All documents are available on  
the Scottish Parliament website at:

[www.parliament.scot/documents](http://www.parliament.scot/documents)

For information on the Scottish Parliament contact  
Public Information on:

Telephone: 0131 348 5000 or 0800 092 7500

Email: [sp.info@parliament.scot](mailto:sp.info@parliament.scot)

Live chat on [parliament.scot](http://parliament.scot)

You can write to us in any language or contact us  
using the Text Relay service or in British Sign

Language through [contactScotland-BSL](http://contactScotland-BSL).

---

---

© Parliamentary copyright. Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body

The Scottish Parliament's copyright policy can be found on the website -  
[www.parliament.scot](http://www.parliament.scot) or by contacting Public Information.