



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 2, No. 97, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 25 April 2023

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

- 1. Time for Reflection:** Dr Lesley Morrison, led Time for Reflection.
- 2. Topical Questions:** Questions were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and Ministers.
- 3. Illegal Migration Bill:** The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice (Shirley-Anne Somerville) moved S6M-08680—That the Parliament deems the UK Government's proposed Illegal Migration Bill to be dehumanising and immoral; notes that the bill proposes that anyone who enters the UK by irregular routes would not be able to remain in the UK, and would be subject to detention and then returned to their home country or what the UK Government deems to be a safe third country such as Rwanda; agrees that the proposals in this bill will remove access to support for some of the most vulnerable people in the world, including children, potentially forcing them into further exploitation and destitution; acknowledges that the Home Secretary has no confidence that the bill is compliant with the European Convention on Human Rights; notes the strict limitations on any formal routes for people seeking asylum; agrees that the UK has moral and international legal obligations to uphold the 1951 Refugee Convention and offer a place of safety to people, including children, fleeing conflict and persecution, and affirms that sanctuary should be available under these obligations to those fleeing war and persecution, and that Scotland remains welcoming to such vulnerable people in their time of need.

Paul O'Kane moved amendment S6M-08680.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-08680 in the name of Shirley-Anne Somerville (Illegal Migration Bill), insert at end “, and agrees with the assessment of the Equality and Human Rights Commission that the bill risks undermining the universality of human rights and protections for victims of trafficking and modern slavery, as well as breaching the UK’s obligations under both the 1951 Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights.”

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 83, Against 28, Abstentions 0).

The motion, as amended, was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 82, Against 28, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament deems the UK Government’s proposed Illegal Migration Bill to be dehumanising and immoral; notes that the bill proposes that anyone who enters the UK by irregular routes would not be able to remain in the UK, and would be subject to detention and then returned to their home country or what the UK Government deems to be a safe third country such as Rwanda; agrees that the proposals in this bill will remove access to support for some of the most vulnerable people in the world, including children, potentially forcing them into further exploitation and destitution; acknowledges that the Home Secretary has no confidence that the bill is compliant with the European Convention on Human Rights; notes the strict limitations on any formal routes for people seeking asylum; agrees that the UK has moral and international legal obligations to uphold the 1951 Refugee Convention and offer a place of safety to people, including children, fleeing conflict and persecution; affirms that sanctuary should be available under these obligations to those fleeing war and persecution; that Scotland remains welcoming to such vulnerable people in their time of need, and agrees with the assessment of the Equality and Human Rights Commission that the bill risks undermining the universality of human rights and protections for victims of trafficking and modern slavery, as well as breaching the UK’s obligations under both the 1951 Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights.

4. Committee Membership: The Minister for Cabinet and Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-08699—That the Parliament agrees —

Mercedes Villalba be appointed to replace Carol Mochan as a member of the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee;

Paul O’Kane be appointed to replace Pam Duncan-Glancy as a member of the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee;

Michael Marra be appointed to replace Daniel Johnson as a member of the Finance and Public Administration Committee;

Carol Mochan be appointed to replace Paul O'Kane as a member of the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee;

Foysoil Choudhury be appointed to replace Carol Mochan as a member of the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee;

Pam Duncan-Glancy be appointed to replace Michael Marra as a member of the Education, Children and Young People Committee;

Rhoda Grant be appointed to replace Mercedes Villalba as a member of the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee;

Neil Bibby be appointed to replace Sarah Boyack as a member of the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee;

Paul O'Kane be appointed to replace Pam Duncan-Glancy as a member of the Social Justice and Social Security Committee; and

Katy Clark be appointed to replace Foysoil Choudhury as a member of the Social Justice and Social Security Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

5. Substitution on Committees: The Minister for Cabinet and Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-08700—That the Parliament agrees —

Daniel Johnson be appointed to replace Colin Smyth as the Scottish Labour Party substitute on the Finance and Public Administration Committee;

Alex Rowley be appointed to replace Sarah Boyack as the Scottish Labour Party substitute on the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee;

Sarah Boyack be appointed to replace Mercedes Villalba as the Scottish Labour Party substitute on the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee;

Sarah Boyack be appointed to replace Paul O'Kane as the Scottish Labour Party substitute on the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee;

Daniel Johnson be appointed to replace Paul Sweeney as the Scottish Labour Party substitute on the Economy and Fair Work Committee;

Mercedes Villalba be appointed to replace Colin Smyth as the Scottish Labour Party substitute on the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee;

Foysoil Choudhury be appointed to replace Claire Baker as the Scottish Labour Party substitute on the Constitution, Europe and External Affairs and Culture Committee;

Colin Smyth be appointed to replace Katy Clark as the Scottish Labour Party substitute on the Public Audit Committee;

Colin Smyth be appointed to replace Rhoda Grant as the Scottish Labour Party substitute on the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee; and

Neil Bibby be appointed to replace Daniel Johnson as the Scottish Labour Party substitute on the Criminal Justice Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

6. Motion Without Notice: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved without notice that, under Rule 11.2.4, Decision Time be brought forward to 4.48 pm.

The motion was agreed to.

7. Decision Time: The Parliament took a decision on item 3, 4 and 5 as noted above.

8. Global Intergenerational Week 2023: The Parliament debated S6M-08189 in the name of Christine Grahame—That the Parliament marks Global Intergenerational Week 2023, which runs from 24 to 30 April in conjunction with Generations Working Together; considers that Scotland is a nation that values fairness, equality and community, as well as the importance of building a society where people of all ages can live happy, healthy and connected lives; recognises the view that there is an urgent need for Scotland to become an intergenerational nation, where people of all ages can work together, learn from each other and support each other in building stronger, healthier communities; acknowledges what it considers the importance of intergenerational work in tackling social isolation and loneliness, reducing ageism and improving the physical and mental health and wellbeing of people of all ages; believes that intergenerational work can reinforce Scottish social values, by promoting understanding, empathy and respect between people of different ages, and notes the calls on the Scottish Government, local authorities and all other relevant bodies to prioritise intergenerational work and develop policies and initiatives that promote intergenerational collaboration and understanding, across a vast range of policy areas, including health and social care, early years and education, and community planning.

The meeting closed at 5.26 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
25 April 2023

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 25 April 2023—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 26th Report. 2023 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 25 April 2023 (SP Paper 355)

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 25 April 2023 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

International Organisations (Immunities and Privileges) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2023 [draft]
laid under section 10(1) of the International Organisations Act 1968

Negative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 21 April 2023 and is subject to the negative procedure—

National Health Service (Optical Charges and Payments) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2023 (SSI 2023/125)
laid under section 105(2) of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978

Other Documents

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 25 April 2023 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

HMICS Assurance Review of Scottish Police Authority Forensic Toxicology Provision (HMICS/2023/04) laid under section 79(3) of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012

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