



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 3, No. 63, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 21 December 2023

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 (Humza Yousaf).

3. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Social Justice were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and Ministers.

4. Appointments of the Chair and Commissioners of the Scottish Land Commission: The Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands (Mairi Gougeon) moved S6M-11733—That the Parliament notes the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee's 21st Report, 2023 (Session 6), Report on appointments to the Scottish Land Commission (SP Paper 499); welcomes the Committee's recommendation that the Parliament approves the appointment of Professor Michael Russell, Professor Deborah Roberts and Craig Mackenzie as Land Commissioners to the Scottish Land Commission; further welcomes the Committee's endorsement of the selection of Professor Michael Russell as Chair of the Commission, and approves the appointments as required by section 10 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016.

Douglas Lumsden moved amendment S6M-11733.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-11733 in the name of Mairi Gougeon (Appointments of the Chair and Commissioners of the Scottish Land Commission), leave out from “recommendation” to end and insert “unanimous recommendation that the Parliament approves the appointment of Professor Deborah Roberts and Craig Mackenzie as Land Commissioners to the Scottish Land Commission; recognises the widespread concerns expressed regarding the recommended appointment of Michael Russell; highlights that Michael Russell’s appointment was not approved unanimously by the Committee because it had not had the opportunity to take evidence from him regarding any potential conflicts of interest that would arise from him having recently been an MSP, president of the Scottish National Party, interim chief executive of the Scottish National Party, and a Scottish Minister; understands that Michael Russell has made a number of inflammatory comments in the past about opposition politicians and parties, as well as about land reform, and therefore questions his ability to be impartial, and approves the appointments of Professor Deborah Roberts and Craig Mackenzie as required by section 10 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016, but, in the interests of protecting the reputation of the Scottish Land Commission, does not approve the appointment of Michael Russell until such time as the Committee has undertaken further scrutiny.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 52, Against 64, Abstentions 1).

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 64, Against 54, Abstentions 0).

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

6. 75 Years of Marie Curie: The Parliament debated S6M-09975 in the name of Bob Doris—That the Parliament congratulates Marie Curie on its 75th anniversary; recognises that, since its inception in 1948, Marie Curie has provided palliative and end of life care and support to millions of people affected by terminal illness and those dealing with dying, death, and bereavement across the UK; understands that Marie Curie works closely with NHS Scotland and is the largest provider of palliative care services for adults outside the NHS; believes that access to appropriate palliative care services is a key element of ensuring the best possible end of life experience; welcomes what it sees as the invaluable contribution of the Marie Curie nursing and volunteer services and its two hospices in Edinburgh and Glasgow; commends its most recent report, *How Many People Need Palliative Care?*, which was published on 6 July 2023 and maps palliative care need across the UK into the late 2040s; understands that, according to the report, palliative care need will increase by more than 25% across the UK by 2048; notes its prediction that the number of 85 year olds living in Scotland will increase by 90% by 2048 to 257,000; considers that, while welcome, this presents a challenge to palliative care services as the number of people with comorbidities in need of complex person-centred care and pain management at the end of life will also increase; understands that Marie Curie is the largest charitable funder of palliative and end of life research; commends the work of all at Marie Curie, including its clinical staff, support services and volunteer helper services, who work to ensure that everyone has the best possible

end of life experience, and looks forward to further developing Scotland's public policy and delivery framework to most effectively meet that goal.

The meeting closed at 2.35 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
21 December 2023

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

Legislative Consent Memorandums

The following memorandum was lodged on 20 December 2023—

Mairi McAllan, Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero and Just Transition:
Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Automated Vehicles Bill (UK
Parliament legislation) (LCM-S6-42)

The following memorandum was lodged on 21 December 2023—

Angela Constance, Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs:
Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Criminal Justice Bill (UK Parliament
legislation) (LCM-S6-43)

New Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 21 December 2023 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh - Annual Report and Consolidated Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 (SG/2023/291) laid under paragraph 20(3) of Schedule 1 of the National Heritage (Scotland) Act 1985

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh 2022/23 Annual Audit Report (SG/2023/325) laid under section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

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