



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 3, No. 71, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 24 January 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 on NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care, were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and Ministers.

2. Investing in Scotland's Green Economy: The Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy (Neil Gray) moved S6M-11945—That the Parliament considers that a just transition is vital to both tackling the climate emergency and building a strong and sustainable economy; welcomes the growing strength of Scotland's green economy, with more than 42,000 FTE jobs supported by Scotland's renewable energy sector, and the recent Climate Emergency Skills Action Plan report that identified almost £90 billion of green investments currently under way or planned to commence in the next three years; agrees that the energy transition and associated supply chain development has the potential to help grow a fair, green wellbeing economy in Scotland; recognises the vital role of public investment in continuing to deliver a just transition to net zero and that the forthcoming Green Industrial Strategy will identify and focus action on the most significant economic opportunities for Scotland; is deeply concerned by the UK Government's failure to keep pace, with overall capital investment levels in decline; understands that declining levels of investment in the UK are in stark contrast to initiatives to increase public investment elsewhere, such as the Inflation Reduction Act in the USA and the European Green Deal; recognises the limits that this lack of action at the UK level imposes on Scotland, and that in spite of this, £2.7 billion will be invested by the Scottish Government in activities that will have a positive impact on the delivery of its climate change goals in 2024-25; notes that the Climate

Change Committee has estimated that 1-2% of GDP needs to be invested in the transition annually until 2050, and calls, therefore, on the UK Government to urgently increase green investment to at least £28 billion a year to ensure that Scotland and the rest of the UK can deliver a just transition to net zero.

Douglas Lumsden moved amendment S6M-11945.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-11945 in the name of Neil Gray (Investing in Scotland's Green Economy), leave out from “is deeply” to end and insert “notes that the recent Scottish Budget for 2024-25 is anti-growth and will damage Scotland's ability to create a thriving green economy by stymying investment, cutting enterprise funding, and by placing a higher tax burden on Scotland compared to the rest of the UK; further notes that the education system is not aligned with the opportunities that the green economy offers; believes that the Scottish Government's opposition to new oil and gas exploration licences will damage the economy of the north east, and that the Scottish National Party administration's inability to deliver economic growth has hindered the development of green jobs and a just transition, and calls on the Scottish Government to back the 93,000 oil and gas sector jobs and ensure that they are not abandoned, to end its opposition to nuclear and to ensure that the financial costs of the transition to net zero do not disproportionately fall upon individuals, families and communities.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 30, Against 89, Abstentions 0).

Sarah Boyack moved amendment S6M-11945.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-11945 in the name of Neil Gray (Investing in Scotland's Green Economy), insert at end “; recognises the economic damage and challenges created by the fiscal policy choices of the UK Government, and the impact that this could have on investment in the green economy; notes the Labour Party's Green Prosperity Plan; agrees that a cross-government mission is needed to deliver clean energy by 2030, and acknowledges the economic opportunities that this could create for Scotland.”

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 87, Against 31, Abstentions 1).

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 88, Against 29, Abstentions 1).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament considers that a just transition is vital to both tackling the climate emergency and building a strong and sustainable economy; welcomes the growing strength of Scotland's green economy, with more than 42,000 FTE jobs supported by Scotland's renewable energy sector, and the recent Climate Emergency Skills Action Plan report that identified almost £90 billion of green investments currently under way or planned to commence in the next three years; agrees that the energy transition and associated supply chain development has the potential to help grow a

fair, green wellbeing economy in Scotland; recognises the vital role of public investment in continuing to deliver a just transition to net zero and that the forthcoming Green Industrial Strategy will identify and focus action on the most significant economic opportunities for Scotland; is deeply concerned by the UK Government's failure to keep pace, with overall capital investment levels in decline; understands that declining levels of investment in the UK are in stark contrast to initiatives to increase public investment elsewhere, such as the Inflation Reduction Act in the USA and the European Green Deal; recognises the limits that this lack of action at the UK level imposes on Scotland, and that in spite of this, £2.7 billion will be invested by the Scottish Government in activities that will have a positive impact on the delivery of its climate change goals in 2024-25; notes that the Climate Change Committee has estimated that 1-2% of GDP needs to be invested in the transition annually until 2050; calls, therefore, on the UK Government to urgently increase green investment to at least £28 billion a year to ensure that Scotland and the rest of the UK can deliver a just transition to net zero; recognises the economic damage and challenges created by the fiscal policy choices of the UK Government, and the impact that this could have on investment in the green economy; notes the Labour Party's Green Prosperity Plan; agrees that a cross-government mission is needed to deliver clean energy by 2030, and acknowledges the economic opportunities that this could create for Scotland.

3. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-11952—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 30 January 2024

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Scotland's Place in the European Union

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 31 January 2024

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Constitution, External Affairs and Culture; 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 1 February 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 Finance and Public Administration Committee Debate: Scottish Budget 2024-25

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.15 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 6 February 2024

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Bankruptcy and Diligence (Scotland) Bill

followed by Financial Resolution: Bankruptcy and Diligence (Scotland) Bill

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 7 February 2024

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy; Finance and Parliamentary Business

followed by Scottish Government Business

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 8 February 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: Transport, Net Zero and Just Transition

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Budget (Scotland) (No. 3) Bill

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 29 January 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.

4. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on item 2 as noted above.

5. Celebrating Scotland's National Native Woodlands: The Parliament debated S6M-11728 in the name of Ariane Burgess—That the Parliament notes the 10th anniversary, on 29 January 2024, of Scots pine becoming Scotland's national tree; understands that Caledonian pinewoods are unique to Scotland, and are the natural home of Scots pine; considers that Scotland is globally important for Caledonian pinewoods and Atlantic rainforest, and therefore has a special responsibility to protect and restore them; understands that both types of woodland support a wealth of biodiversity and can help mitigate against the impacts of climate change; notes the belief that browsing by deer and the spread of invasive non-native species means that many Caledonian pinewoods and Atlantic rainforests will not survive without urgent action; believes that these pressures impact all native woodlands across Scotland; notes the support for landscape-scale deer management and targeted grant funding to enable their restoration; further notes the view that Forestry and Land Scotland should continue to take a leadership role in this restoration, especially in the removal of invasive non-native species such as rhododendron; notes what it sees as the growing number of private landowners involved in pinewood and rainforest restoration, including at Glen Loyne in East Glen Quich, Highlands, and thanks environmental groups like Trees for Life, Woodland Trust Scotland and Plantlife, as well as community groups such as Arkaig Community Forest in the Highlands, Langholm Initiative in the Borders, Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust, Argyll Coast and Communities Trust, and others in the Community Woodlands Association, for their efforts to restore Scotland's native woodlands.

The meeting closed at 5.56 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
24 January 2024

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

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 24 January 2024—

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee, 1st Report, 2024 (Session 6): The Anaesthesia Associates and Physician Associates Order 2024 [draft] (SP Paper 510)

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee, 2nd Report, 2024 (Session 6): Draft Funeral Director Code of Practice (SG 2023/300) (SP Paper 511)

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 24 January 2024 and are subject to the affirmative procedure—

Provision of Early Learning and Childcare (Specified Children) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2024 [draft]
laid under section 99(2) of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014

Cost of Living (Tenant Protection) (Scotland) Act 2022 (Expiry of Section 10: Extension) Regulations 2024 [draft]
laid under sections 11(4)(a) and 12(5)(a) of the Cost of Living (Tenant Protection) (Scotland) Act 2022

Rent Adjudication (Temporary Modifications) (Scotland) Regulations 2024 [draft]
laid under section 77(3) of the Private Housing (Tenancies) (Scotland) Act 2016 and section 25ZA(4) of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1988

Negative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 24 January 2024 and is subject to the negative procedure—

Cost of Living (Tenant Protection) (Scotland) Act 2022 (Saving Provisions) Regulations 2024 (SSI 2024/19)
laid under section 7(9)(b) of the Cost of Living (Tenant Protection) (Scotland) Act 2022

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 24 January 2024 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Proposed extension of Section 10 of the Cost of Living (Tenant Protection) (Scotland) Act 2022: Statement of Reasons (SG/2024/8) laid under Section 11(5) of the Cost of Living (Tenant Protection) (Scotland) Act 2022

Scottish Public Services Ombudsman: Compendium of Case Reports for January 2024 (SPSO/2024/01) laid under Sections 15(1) and 15(1A) of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002

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