



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 3, No. 72, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 25 January 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 (Humza Yousaf).

**3. Holocaust Memorial Day 2024:** The Parliament debated S6M-11789 in the name of Paul O'Kane— That the Parliament recognises Holocaust Memorial Day 2024; remembers the six million Jewish people murdered during the Holocaust, alongside the millions of others killed under the Nazi's persecution of other minority groups; reflects on the millions of people who have been murdered in more recent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur; recognises that Holocaust Memorial Day takes place on 27 January, marking the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp; acknowledges that the theme for Holocaust Memorial Day is developed annually by the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust; reflects on this year's theme, Fragility of Freedom; understands that, in every genocide that has taken place, those who are targeted have had their freedom restricted and removed, before many of them are murdered and that, despite this, in every genocide, there are those who risk their own freedom to help others, to preserve others' freedom or to stand up to the regime; congratulates the efforts of the Holocaust Memorial Day activity organisers around Scotland who bring people together to learn lessons from history, and understands the importance of challenging all forms of prejudice to ensure that lessons of such events are fully learnt.

**4. Motion Without Notice:** Paul O’Kane moved without notice that, under Rule 8.14.3, the debate be extended by up to 30 minutes.

The motion was agreed to.

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

**6. Scotland as a Technology Nation:** The Minister for Small Business, Innovation, Tourism and Trade (Richard Lochhead) moved S6M-11958—That the Parliament recognises the fundamental role of technology, science and innovation in shaping the modern world; notes the global trends that will impact upon Scotland’s future economy and society; celebrates the successes of Scotland’s high-tech industries and the benefits that they bring in generating economic prosperity, enabling the transition to a green economy, offering solutions to the challenges of the 21st century, providing thousands of high-skilled jobs and generating inward investment and export opportunities, and recognises the role of the Scottish Government in supporting Scotland to become a hub of world-class technology, building on the strengths of these industries to play a central role in the delivery of an economy that is fair, green and growing, and benefits all of Scotland’s communities and people.

Brian Whittle moved amendment S6M-11958.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-11958 in the name of Richard Lochhead (Scotland as a Technology Nation), leave out from “, and recognises” to end and insert “; notes that the recent Scottish Budget for 2024-25 will prevent Scotland’s technology sector from reaching its full potential by cutting enterprise funding, stymying economic growth, and placing a higher tax burden on Scotland, compared to the rest of the UK; further notes that recent cuts to the Scottish Funding Council and the Scottish National Investment Bank will restrict research and development opportunities in the software, medical and green technology sectors; acknowledges that the recent Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) results will impact the technology sector with Scotland continuing to perform poorly in maths and science; believes that the poverty-related attainment gap will prevent future generations from entering the technology sector; calls on the Scottish Government to promote STEM subjects in schools, and to encourage more people to pursue technology as a career through higher education or apprenticeships, and urges the Scottish Government to work more constructively with the technology sector to grow the economy so that Scotland can continue to become a centre of world-leading technology, and provide more well-paid and highly-skilled jobs.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 44, Against 66, Abstentions 2).

Daniel Johnson moved amendment S6M-11958.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-11958 in the name of Richard Lochhead (Scotland as a Technology Nation), insert at end “; notes the findings and

recommendations of the Scottish technology ecosystem review, led by Mark Logan, including the findings that the number of computer studies teachers in Scotland is falling and that Scotland's education system is not currently set up to support a thriving technology sector, and calls on the Scottish Government to act urgently to reverse this trend, reduce digital exclusion and make computer studies a growing and exciting subject area in Scottish schools.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 50, Against 64, Abstentions 0).

The motion was agreed to (DT).

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

The meeting closed at 5.08 pm.

**David McGill**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
25 January 2024

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

**Subordinate Legislation**

**Affirmative Instruments**

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 25 January 2024 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

National Bus Travel Concession Schemes (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Order 2024 [draft]

laid under section 52(3) of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2005

**Negative Instruments**

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 25 January 2024 and are subject to the negative procedure—

National Assistance (Assessment of Resources) Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2024 (SSI 2024/21)

laid under section 63(3) of the National Assistance Act 1948

National Assistance (Sums for Personal Requirements) (Scotland) Regulations 2024 (SSI 2024/22)

laid under section 63(3) of the National Assistance Act 1948

Road Works (Scottish Road Works Register Fees and Miscellaneous Amendment) Regulations 2024 (SSI 2024/23)

laid under section 163 of the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 and section 143(2) of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984

**Laid Only Instruments**

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 25 January 2024 and is not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Health and Care (Staffing) (Scotland) Act 2019 (Commencement No. 2) Regulations 2024 (SSI 2024/20 (C. 3))

laid under section 30 of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

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