



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 2, No. 82, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 7 March 2023

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

- 1. Time for Reflection:** Mollie Hughes, Mountaineer, Adventurer and Motivational Speaker, led Time for Reflection.
- 2. Topical Questions:** Questions were answered by Ministers.
- 3. Women and Girls' Safety on Public Transport:** The Minister for Transport (Jenny Gilruth) moved S6M-08122—That Parliament notes the publication of new Scottish Government research on Women and Girls' Safety on Public Transport; encourages operators, police authorities and other stakeholders to adopt the recommendations put forward by the report; regrets that women and girls are adapting their behaviour to try to feel safe when travelling or working on public transport; notes that wider systemic changes, supported by more practical interventions, are required, and supports a commitment to engage stakeholders in the Scottish transport sector in a summit, which will progress the recommendations from this report, to ensure that Scotland's public transport is made safer for women and girls.

Graham Simpson moved amendment S6M-08122.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-08122 in the name of Jenny Gilruth (Women and Girls' Safety on Public Transport), insert at end “; notes the 10th anniversary of British Transport Police's (BTP) Text 61016 service in March 2023, and encourages people to use BTP's free Railway Guardian app, which helps the travelling public and rail staff to report crime to BTP and offers

information on what to do if people see sexual harassment on trains or at stations.”

After debate, the amendment was agreed to (DT).

Neil Bibby moved amendment S6M-08122.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-08122 in the name of Jenny Gilruth (Women and Girls' Safety on Public Transport), insert at end “; believes that in order for women and girls to feel safe and be safe, the public transport network needs to be accessible and properly staffed; rejects proposals for any cuts to ScotRail ticket office opening hours, which would be a retrograde step in this regard, and calls for assurances that trade unions and women's organisations will be actively included in the work for safety on public transport.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 51, Against 63, Abstentions 0).

The motion, as amended, was agreed to (DT).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That Parliament notes the publication of new Scottish Government research on Women and Girls' Safety on Public Transport; encourages operators, police authorities and other stakeholders to adopt the recommendations put forward by the report; regrets that women and girls are adapting their behaviour to try to feel safe when travelling or working on public transport; notes that wider systemic changes, supported by more practical interventions, are required; supports a commitment to engage stakeholders in the Scottish transport sector in a summit, which will progress the recommendations from this report, to ensure that Scotland's public transport is made safer for women and girls; notes the 10th anniversary of British Transport Police's (BTP) Text 61016 service in March 2023, and encourages people to use BTP's free Railway Guardian app, which helps the travelling public and rail staff to report crime to BTP and offers information on what to do if people see sexual harassment on trains or at stations.

4. 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 4.59 pm.

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

6. The Cost to Families of Imprisonment and Release: The Parliament debated S6M-07522 in the name of Rona Mackay—That the Parliament acknowledges what it sees as the deepening financial and emotional hardship of families with a loved one in prison after a decade of austerity, the COVID-19 pandemic and the present cost of living crisis; notes the impact of what it considers this harsh reality in a new report by Families Outside, the only national charity that works solely on behalf of families in Scotland, including in the Strathkelvin and Bearsden constituency, who are affected by imprisonment; understands that one in

three children in disadvantaged areas of the country are now living in poverty; believes that the cost of imprisonment is overwhelmingly borne by single women on low incomes, with single parents hit especially hard financially, along with the added adverse impact on mental health as a consequence of supporting someone in prison; notes the view that more support is needed for people on release from prison, which it considers would in turn help their families; highlights what it considers the role of prison in creating, sustaining and deepening poverty among children and families, and notes the view that more must be done to relieve what it sees as the financial and mental burden carried silently by families for too long, and to ensure that their voices are heard.

The meeting closed at 5.48 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
7 March 2023

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

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 6 March 2023—

Criminal Justice Committee, 3rd Report, 2023 (Session 6): Bail and Release from Custody (Scotland) Bill Stage 1 Report (SP Paper 327)

Social Justice and Social Security Committee, 1st Report, 2023 (Session 6): Legislative Consent Memorandum - Social Security (Additional Payments) (No. 2) Bill (SP Paper 329)

The following report was published on 7 March 2023—

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee, 2nd Report, 2023 (Session 6): Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee report on The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016 (Register of Persons Holding a Controlled Interest in Land) Amendment Regulations 2023 [draft] (SP Paper 325)

Subordinate Legislation

Negative Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 3 March 2023 and are subject to the negative procedure—

Non-Domestic Rates (Transitional Relief) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2023 (SSI 2023/63)

laid under section 153(6) of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994

Non-Domestic Rates (Scotland) Act 2020 (Transitional Provision) Regulations 2023 (SSI 2023/64)

laid under section 43(4) of the Non-Domestic Rates (Scotland) Act 2020

Building (Scotland) Amendment (No. 2) Regulations 2022 (Amendment) Regulations 2023 (SSI 2023/65)

laid under section 54(5) of the Building (Scotland) Act 2003

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 6 March 2023 and is subject to the negative procedure—

Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011 (Safeguarders Panel) Amendment Regulations 2023 (SSI 2023/66)

laid under section 195(3) of the Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011

Other Documents

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 3 March 2023 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Judicial Appointments Board for Scotland Annual Report 2021/2022
(SG/2023/41) laid under section 18 of the Judiciary and Courts (Scotland) Act 2008

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