



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 3, No. 107, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 8 May 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, on NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care, and then on Social Justice, were answered by Ministers.

2. Implementing the Cass Review in Scotland: Meghan Gallacher moved S6M-13090—That the Parliament welcomes the report submitted by Dr Hilary Cass on gender identity services for children and young people; recognises the report as a valid scientific document, and calls on the Scottish Government to implement the recommendations of the report that are applicable to NHS services in Scotland.

The Minister for Public Health and Women's Health (Jenni Minto) moved amendment S6M-13090.4—

As an amendment to motion S6M-13090 in the name of Meghan Gallacher (Implementing the Cass Review in Scotland), leave out from “implement” to end and insert “thoroughly examine the recommendations of the NHS England commissioned report, and its applicability to NHS Scotland services, and to update the Parliament on the outcome before the summer recess.”

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 71, Against 30, Abstentions 20).

Jackie Baillie moved amendment S6M-13090.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-13090 in the name of Meghan Gallacher (Implementing the Cass Review in Scotland), insert at end “, and further calls on the Scottish Government to publish all papers relating to the multi-disciplinary clinical team work in assessing Dr Cass’s recommendations, and to urgently prepare a progress report on the existing strategy for reducing long waits for children and young people to access specialist gender services.”

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

The motion, as amended, was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 113, Against 7, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament welcomes the report submitted by Dr Hilary Cass on gender identity services for children and young people; recognises the report as a valid scientific document; calls on the Scottish Government to thoroughly examine the recommendations of the NHS England commissioned report, and its applicability to NHS Scotland services, and to update the Parliament on the outcome before the summer recess, and further calls on the Scottish Government to publish all papers relating to the multi-disciplinary clinical team work in assessing Dr Cass’s recommendations, and to urgently prepare a progress report on the existing strategy for reducing long waits for children and young people to access specialist gender services.

3. Supporting Scotland’s Colleges: Liam Kerr moved S6M-13091—That the Parliament agrees that the Scottish Government’s approach to funding and resourcing Scotland’s colleges must change in response to the existential threat that its previous approach has created; notes the role that colleges play in powering the regional and national economy, while operating without the necessary flexibility and support that they need, and recognises that colleges are vital to Scotland’s economy and play a crucial role in supporting learners, creating flexible routes into employment, developing a skilled workforce and delivering sustainable economic growth.

The Minister for Higher and Further Education; and Minister for Veterans (Graeme Dey) moved amendment S6M-13091.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-13091 in the name of Liam Kerr (Supporting Scotland’s Colleges), leave out from “agrees” to end and insert “recognises that colleges are vital to Scotland’s economy and play a crucial role in supporting learners, creating flexible routes into employment, developing a skilled workforce and delivering sustainable economic growth; understands that the process of post-school education reform provides opportunities to further enhance the role that Scotland’s colleges play in the economy and society, including enhancing their role in developing the green skills that Scotland needs for the just transition, and agrees that any proposals for changes to funding must be clear from where else in the Scottish Government’s budget the resource would be taken, particularly in the context of 14 years of UK Government austerity.”

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 61, Against 58, Abstentions 0).

Pam Duncan-Glancy moved amendment S6M-13091.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-13091 in the name of Liam Kerr (Supporting Scotland's Colleges), insert at end “; expresses its concern at the £12 million cut in student support funding proposed by the Scottish Funding Council (SFC); agrees with the assessment in Audit Scotland's briefing, Scotland's colleges 2023, that 'The Scottish Government and the SFC urgently need to build on their ongoing work with colleges and help them become sustainable now', and calls on the Minister for Higher and Further Education to get round the table with colleges and trade unions before the summer recess, with a view to facilitating a solution that will end the industrial dispute.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 60, Against 61, Abstentions 0).

The motion, as amended, was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 62, Against 59, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament recognises that colleges are vital to Scotland's economy and play a crucial role in supporting learners, creating flexible routes into employment, developing a skilled workforce and delivering sustainable economic growth; understands that the process of post-school education reform provides opportunities to further enhance the role that Scotland's colleges play in the economy and society, including enhancing their role in developing the green skills that Scotland needs for the just transition, and agrees that any proposals for changes to funding must be clear from where else in the Scottish Government's budget the resource would be taken, particularly in the context of 14 years of UK Government austerity.

4. Revision to Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-13139—That the Parliament agrees to the following revision to the programme of business for Thursday 9 May 2024—

delete

2.00 pm Appointment of Scottish Ministers

and insert

2.00 pm Appointment of Scottish Ministers and Junior Scottish Ministers

The motion was agreed to.

5. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-13122—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 14 May 2024

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Housing (Cladding Remediation) (Scotland) Bill

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

6.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 15 May 2024

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Constitution, External Affairs and Culture; Justice and Home Affairs

followed by Scottish Labour 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 16 May 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 Stage 1 Debate: Aggregates Tax and Devolved Taxes Administration (Scotland) Bill

followed by Financial Resolution: Aggregates Tax and Devolved Taxes Administration (Scotland) Bill

followed by Appointment of the Chair of the Scottish Commission for Human Rights

followed by Appointment of Member of the Scottish Commission for Public Audit

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 21 May 2024

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Post Office (Horizon System) Offences (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 22 May 2024

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Wellbeing Economy, Net Zero and Energy; Finance, Deputy First Minister Responsibilities and Parliamentary Business

followed by Stage 2 Proceedings: Post Office (Horizon System) Offences (Scotland) Bill

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 23 May 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

followed by Public Audit Committee Debate: Audit Scotland Report, Adult Mental Health

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 13 May 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.

Douglas Ross moved amendment S6M-13122.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-13122 in the name of George Adam (Business Programme), after “the following programme of business—” insert—

"Thursday 9 May 2024

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister’s Questions

followed by Members’ Business — S6M-12342 Collette Stevenson: Shining a Light on Domestic Abuse in LGBT+ History Month

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Appointment of Scottish Ministers *and Junior Scottish Ministers*

followed by Legislative Consent Motion: Data Protection and Digital Information Bill - UK Legislation

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Welfare of Dogs (Scotland) Bill

followed by Statement by the Lord Advocate on Post Office Horizon Prosecutions

followed by Appointments of the Chair and Commissioners of the Poverty and Inequality Commission

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.30 pm Decision Time".

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to (by division: For 52, Against 68, Abstentions 0).

The motion was then agreed to.

6. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-13123—That the Parliament agrees that the Registration of Social Workers and Social Service Workers in Care Services (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2024 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

7. Committee Meeting Times: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-13124—That the Parliament agrees that, under Rule 12.3.3B of Standing Orders, the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee can meet, if necessary, at the same time as a meeting of the Parliament following the Appointment of Scottish Ministers on Thursday 9 May 2024.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

8. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 2, 3, 6 and 7 as noted above.

9. World Asthma Day 2024: The Parliament debated S6M-12707 in the name of Emma Harper—That the Parliament notes World Asthma Day 2024, which will take place on 7 May 2024; recognises that the Global Initiative for Asthma, supported by the World Health Organization, will this year mark the theme of “Asthma Education Empowers”; understands that around 360,000 people, including 72,000 children, have an asthma diagnosis in Scotland; further understands that asthma is one of the most common chronic non-communicable diseases that affects over 260 million people globally, and is responsible for over 450,000 deaths each year worldwide, most of which are preventable, and that, according to the Global Initiative for Asthma, one of the key universal issues for which education is required is the under-diagnosis or inaccurate diagnosis, including of people with severe asthma, underuse of anti-inflammatory inhaled corticosteroid inhalers, overuse and over-reliance on short-acting beta2-agonist (SABA) inhalers, and poor recognition of patients requiring specialist assessment and further asthma care management; notes the reported difference in severe asthma compared with unstable asthma, and understands that poorly controlled severe asthma can take a toll on health and wellbeing; welcomes the Scottish Government’s Respiratory Care Action Plan, which aims to improve prevention, diagnosis, treatment, care and self-management of asthma and lung conditions; notes the calls on the Scottish Government to provide an update on the effectiveness of the plan in helping to improve outcomes for people living with asthma; welcomes the work of Asthma + Lung UK Scotland to improve asthma care in Scotland and to support people who receive an asthma diagnosis and their families; further welcomes the creation of the International Coalition of Respiratory Nurses (ICRN) in 2023, which brings together nurses and allied health professionals from across the globe to advance the care and treatment of patients with respiratory conditions, including asthma, and notes the view that better asthma care at all levels of healthcare can lead to better outcomes and lives for people living with asthma.

The meeting closed at 6.31 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
8 May 2024

Appendix

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 8 May 2024—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 34th Report, 2024 (Session 6): Instruments considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee during the third quarter of the Parliamentary Year 2023-24 (SP Paper 583)

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