



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 2, No. 94, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 18 April 2023

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

- 1. Time for Reflection:** Reverend Drew Gebbie, Minister, Hamilton South Parish Church linked with Quarter Parish Church, led Time for Reflection.
- 2. Topical Questions:** Questions were answered by Ministers.
- 3. First Minister's Statement:** The First Minister (Humza Yousaf) made a statement and answered questions on Our Priorities for Scotland.
- 4. Supporting Scotland with Cost of Living and Reducing Child Poverty:** The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice (Shirley-Anne Somerville) moved S6M-08589— That the Parliament commits to continuing the national mission on tackling child poverty; acknowledges that the most recent poverty statistics remain too high and that all levels of government must take action to reduce poverty and inequality in society; recognises the pressure being placed on household finances due to rising inflation, high energy bills and soaring increases to food costs, and that this cost of living crisis disproportionately impacts households on low incomes and is likely to exacerbate unacceptably high levels of child poverty; welcomes plans for an anti-poverty summit to guide future action on tackling poverty; acknowledges the significant action that the Scottish Government has already taken to tackle the cost of living and child poverty, including the tripling of the Fuel Insecurity Fund, expanding and increasing the value of the Scottish Child Payment and introducing new family benefits, mitigating the benefit cap as far as possible within devolved powers, the provision of 1,140 hours of funded early learning and childcare, and offering universal free school meals to all pupils in P1 to P5, and calls on the UK Government to match the ambition shown by

the Scottish Government and reverse the harmful welfare reform policies implemented since 2015, which would lift an estimated 70,000 people, including 30,000 children, out of poverty in Scotland in 2023-24.

Miles Briggs moved amendment S6M-08589.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-08589 in the name of Shirley-Anne Somerville (Supporting Scotland with Cost of Living and Reducing Child Poverty), leave out from the second “acknowledges” to end and insert “; recognises the fact that child poverty levels have remained the same since 2007, with 9,130 children living in temporary accommodation; expresses disappointment in the Scottish Government's failure to close the attainment gap and to deliver free school meals for all primary school children; recognises that the Scottish Government has missed its deadline of devolving all social security benefits, and calls on the Scottish and UK governments to work together in order to ensure that no child goes to bed hungry.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 26, Against 84, Abstentions 3).

Paul O'Kane moved amendment S6M-08589.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-08589 in the name of Shirley-Anne Somerville (Supporting Scotland with Cost of Living and Reducing Child Poverty), leave out from “welcomes” to end and insert “; notes plans for an anti-poverty summit to guide future action on tackling poverty; further notes that, after 16 years of an SNP administration, child poverty levels, after housing costs, have remained at 24%, and severe child poverty, after housing costs, has been rising since 2014; acknowledges that 94% of families surveyed by Includem for its report, It Is Not A Choice, have experienced worsening finances, and 73% are struggling to meet the cost of two or more basic essentials; expresses concern at the downgrading of social security in the Scottish Government's priorities, with the removal of a minister for social security; urges the Scottish Government to take decisive action to reduce poverty across Scotland in the face of these stark figures; highlights the implementation gap on the measures set out by Best Start, Bright Futures relating to employability support, and welcomes the Scottish Labour Party's plan to tackle the cost of living crisis by introducing a proper windfall tax that would help to pay to keep bills down, to pay for affordable public transport and housing support, to tackle problem debt, scrap school meal arrears, and provide help for households, including a £100 water bill rebate and top-ups to the welfare fund.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 17, Against 94, Abstentions 3).

Alex Cole-Hamilton moved amendment S6M-08589.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-08589 in the name of Shirley-Anne Somerville (Supporting Scotland with Cost of Living and Reducing Child

Poverty), insert at end “; further calls on the Scottish Government to rapidly bring forward a new emergency insulation programme that makes every home a warm one, alleviating fuel poverty, reducing energy bills, and overcoming the slow progress of existing schemes, and urges the Scottish Government to resolve the problems around the delivery of existing early learning and childcare (ELC) policies, in light of the thousands of two year olds from deprived backgrounds who are missing out on the benefits of funded hours, families finding that the 1,140 hours provision is inflexible or even inaccessible, and the need to immediately increase rates to protect the future of private and third sector providers, at the same time as also preparing for the further expansion of the funded ELC offer to younger children that is needed to boost attainment and benefit the economy.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 20, Against 94, Abstentions 0).

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 67, Against 30, Abstentions 17).

5. Revision to Business Programme: The Minister for Cabinet and Parliamentary Business

(George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-08614—That the Parliament agrees to the following revisions to the programme of business for—

(a) Wednesday 19 April 2023—

after

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Rural Affairs and Islands; Health and Social Care

insert

followed by Ministerial Statement: Challenge to the UK Government’s Section 35 Order on the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill

(b) Thursday 20 April 2023—

delete

2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.30 pm Portfolio Questions: Social Justice, Housing and Local Government

and insert

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Social Justice, Housing and Local Government

followed by Ministerial Statement: Deposit Return Scheme

The motion was agreed to.

6. Committee Membership: The Minister for Cabinet and Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-08615—That the Parliament agrees that—

Ben Macpherson be appointed to replace Jenni Minto as a member of the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee;

Stuart McMillan be appointed to replace Siobhian Brown as a member of the COVID-19 Recovery Committee;

Ben Macpherson be appointed to replace Kaukab Stewart as a member of the Education, Children and Young People Committee;

Bill Kidd be appointed to replace Graeme Dey as a member of the Education, Children and Young People Committee;

Kaukab Stewart be appointed to replace Joe FitzPatrick as a member of the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee;

Clare Haughey be appointed to replace Gillian Martin as a member of the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee;

Ivan McKee be appointed to replace Paul McLennan as a member of the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee;

Christine Grahame be appointed to replace Jenni Minto as a member of the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee;

Collette Stevenson be appointed to replace Natalie Don as a member of the Social Justice and Social Security Committee;

Gordon MacDonald be appointed to replace Emma Roddick as a member of the Social Justice and Social Security Committee;

Marie McNair be appointed to replace Paul McLennan as a member of the Social Justice and Social Security Committee; and

Emma Harper be appointed to replace Collette Stevenson as a member of the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

7. Substitution on Committees: The Minister for Cabinet and Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-08616—That the Parliament agrees that—

Rona Mackay be appointed to replace Jenni Minto as the Scottish National Party substitute on the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee;

Ben Macpherson be appointed to replace Kaukab Stewart as the Scottish National Party substitute on the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee;

Bob Doris be appointed to replace Collette Stevenson as the Scottish National Party substitute on the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee;

Ivan McKee be appointed to replace Natalie Don as the Scottish National Party substitute on the Education, Children and Young People Committee;

Audrey Nicoll be appointed to replace Graeme Dey as the Scottish National Party substitute on the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee;

Ash Regan be appointed to replace Stuart McMillan as the Scottish National Party substitute on the COVID-19 Recovery Committee; and

Stephanie Callaghan be appointed to replace Evelyn Tweed as the Scottish National Party substitute on the Social Justice and Social Security Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

8. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 4, 6 and 7 as noted above.

9. Wear A Hat Day 2023: The Parliament debated S6M-07890 in the name of Emma Harper—That the Parliament recognises what it sees as the importance of Wear A Hat Day, taking place on 31 March 2023, in raising awareness of brain tumours; understands that brain tumours are the biggest killer of children and adults under 40 with cancer in Scotland, reducing life expectancy by 20 years on average; believes that this is the highest life expectancy reduction of any cancer, but that the treatment and understanding of brain tumours are 20 years behind those relating to more common cancers; notes that brain tumours often cause side effects that have a severe impact on a person's quality of life; understands that there are over 130 different types of brain tumour, and that some symptoms of brain tumours can mimic other equally serious conditions, which often renders early diagnosis and treatment more difficult in many cases; further understands that brain tumour charities, such as the Brain Tumour Charity, are working hard to fund pioneering research, raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of brain tumours, and provide support to people affected by brain tumours; commends the success of national campaigns, which it considers have contributed to a reduction in the average diagnosis time for childhood brain tumours, from 9.1 to 6.5 weeks, since 2011; believes that national campaigns are a basis on which to develop further awareness; notes the significant efforts of Dumfries and Galloway Medical Physics Technician, Alan Johnstone, in both raising awareness of brain tumours and funding for research and development into the causes of brain tumours, their treatment and, ultimately, a cure; understands that Alan's late wife, Anneka Johnstone, was diagnosed with a glioblastoma brain tumour and sadly died in 2019, despite being a very fit and active 33-year-old, and further understands that, despite losing Anneka, Alan has raised more than £55,000 for the Brain Tumour Charity by walking the 214-mile Southern Upland Way, videos of which were posted to Alan's TikTok account, which has attracted a huge following.

The meeting closed at 6.38 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
18 April 2023

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

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 31 March 2023 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 (Interim Target) Amendment Regulations 2023 [draft]

laid under section 96(4) of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 31 March 2023 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 (Interim Target) Amendment Regulations 2023: Statement under sections 2A(6), 2E(5) and 3B(4) of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 (SG/2023/43) laid at the request of a member of the Scottish Government and not under any laying power

National Islands Plan Annual Report 2022 (SG/2023/74) laid under Section 5 of the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018

Thirteenth Annual Report on the Operation of Section 72 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 (SG/2023/40) laid under Section 73 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 3 April 2023 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Community Justice Outcome Activity Across Scotland Annual Report 2022/2023 (SG/2023/85) laid under Section 27 of the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016

This report replaces the previous version laid before the Parliament on 30th March 2023 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure, which has been withdrawn:

Community Justice Outcome Activity Across Scotland Annual Report 2022/2023 (SG/2023/001) laid under Section 27 of the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 6 April 2023 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Reconsideration and Review of Determinations (SG/2023/46) laid under section 106(5) of The Redress for Survivors (Historical Child Abuse in Care) (Scotland) Act 2021

Payments Materially Affected by Error (SG/2023/45) laid under section 106(5) of
The Redress for Survivors (Historical Child Abuse in Care) (Scotland) Act 2021

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