



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 3, No. 60, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 14 December 2023

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 Deputy First Minister (Shona Robison).
- 3. Antisocial Behaviour on Buses:** The Parliament debated S6M-11294 in the name of Graham Simpson—That the Parliament notes with concern reports of antisocial behaviour on buses and by those using buses throughout Scotland; acknowledges reports that people travelling using the national Young Persons' (Under 22s) Free Bus Travel scheme have been responsible for incidents that have led to buses being withdrawn, or diverted, and notes the calls for perpetrators to have their entitlement to free travel under the scheme removed.
- 4. Portfolio Questions:** Questions on Transport, Net Zero and Just Transition were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and a Minister.
- 5. Application of the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Act 2023 in Scotland:** The Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy (Neil Gray) moved S6M-11652—That the Parliament considers the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Act 2023 to be unnecessary, unwanted and ineffective; further considers that the legislation, and any associated secondary legislation that could be applied in Scotland, encroaches on the devolved responsibilities of the Scottish Parliament in matters relating to health, transport, fire and rescue and education; notes that its

measures seek to undermine legitimate trade union activity and do not respect fair work principles; recognises that trade unions are key social and economic partners in Scotland in responding to the cost of living crisis, creating a wellbeing economy and working towards a just transition to net zero; agrees that a progressive approach to industrial relations and to trade unionism is at the heart of a fairer, more successful society, and makes clear, therefore, its opposition to the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Act 2023 and to any associated secondary legislation that could be applied in Scotland.

Murdo Fraser moved amendment S6M-11652.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-11652 in the name of Neil Gray (Application of the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Act 2023 in Scotland), leave out from second "the" to end and insert "that the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Act 2023 strikes an appropriate balance between the ability to strike and the protection of lives and livelihoods; notes that most European countries have provisions in place for minimum service levels during certain public service strikes; recognises that public service employees have a right to strike, and that an element of disruption is inherent to any strike, but believes that the wider public expect a minimum level of service during industrial action; notes that the legislation currently only applies in Scotland to the reserved areas of border security, HM Passport Office and nuclear decommissioning, and does not impact on devolved responsibilities in health, transport, fire and rescue and education, considering that the Scottish Government has stated that it will not mandate minimum service levels under the legislation during a potential strike, and calls on the Scottish Government to use the powers that it has been given under the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Act 2023 to ensure that people in Scotland have the same protections for devolved public services in the event of a strike that those elsewhere in the UK benefit from."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 28, Against 85, Abstentions 0).

Daniel Johnson moved amendment S6M-11652.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-11652 in the name of Neil Gray (Application of the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Act 2023 in Scotland), insert at end "; believes that the Act is an attack on the rights of public sector workers, and supports the Labour's Party's New Deal for Working People, which includes commitments to repeal the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Act 2023 within the first 100 days of the next UK Labour administration, to outlaw zero-hours contracts and fire and rehire practices, to deliver a genuine living wage, and to ensure day one rights to sick pay, parental leave and protection from unfair dismissal, and which has been described by the Trades Union Congress as the biggest expansion of workers' rights in decades."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 18, Against 91, Abstentions 4).

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 85, Against 28, Abstentions 0).

**6. 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 4.52 pm.

The motion was agreed to.

**7. Decision Time:** The Parliament took decisions on item 5 as noted above.

The meeting closed at 5.00 pm.

**David McGill**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
14 December 2023

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

**Committee Reports**

The following report was published on 14 December 2023—

Economy and Fair Work Committee, 6th Report, 2023 (Session 6): Legislation  
Consent Memorandum for the Economic Activity of Public Bodies (Overseas  
Matters) Bill on 14 December 2023 (SP Paper 495)

**Subordinate Legislation**

**Negative Instruments**

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 14 December 2023 and is subject to the negative procedure—

Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) (Use of Member Information) (Scotland)  
Revocation Regulations 2023 (SSI 2023/375)  
laid under section 210(5) of the Equality Act 2010

**Other Documents**

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 14 December 2023 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**Aithisg Bhliadhnail agus Cunntasan Puirt-adhair na Gàidhealtachd is nan Eilean Earranta gu 31 Mart 2023 (SG/2023/84)** laid under section 34 of the Civil Aviation Act 1982

**British Film Institute Annual Report and Financial Statements 2022/23 (SG/2023/301)** laid under Section 88 of the Scotland Act 1998

**Ethical Standards Commissioner Annual Report and Accounts 2022/23 (SG/2023/319)** laid under section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

**Highlands and Islands Airports Limited (HIAL) Annual Report and Accounts to 31 March 2023 (SG/2023/269)** laid under section 34 of the Civil Aviation Act 1982

**Mental Health Tribunal for Scotland Annual Report 2022/2023 (SG/2023/277)** laid under Paragraph 14(3) of schedule 2 to the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003

**Redress Scotland Annual report and Accounts 2022/2023 (SG/2023/311)** laid under Section 17 of the Redress for Survivors (Historical Child Abuse in Care) (Scotland) Act 2021

**Scottish Environment Protection Agency: Annual Report and Accounts 2022-2023 (SG/2023/305)** laid under Section 46 of the Environment Act 1995 and Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

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