



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 3, No. 13, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 13 June 2023

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Time for Reflection: Revd Nicky Gumbel, pioneer of Alpha, led Time for Reflection.

2. Revision to Business Programme: The Minister for Cabinet and Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-09497—That the Parliament agrees to the following revisions to the programme of business for Tuesday 13 June 2023—

after

followed by Education, Children and Young People Committee Debate: College Regionalisation

insert

followed by Appointment of Junior Scottish Minister

delete

5.00 pm Decision Time

and insert

5.10 pm Decision Time

The motion was agreed to.

3. Topical Questions: Questions were answered by Ministers.

4. Ministerial Statement: The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice (Shirley-Anne Somerville) made a statement and answered questions on Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan - Annual Progress Report 2022-23.

5. College Regionalisation: Sue Webber, on behalf of the Education, Children and Young People Committee, moved S6M-09414—That the Parliament notes the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Education, Children and Young People Committee's 2nd Report, 2023 (Session 6), College regionalisation inquiry (SP Paper 331).

The motion was agreed to (DT).

6. Appointment of Junior Scottish Minister: The First Minister (Humza Yousaf) moved S6M-09508—That the Parliament agrees that Fiona Hyslop be appointed as a junior Scottish Minister.

The motion was agreed to.

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

8. Women Prisoners: The Parliament debated S6M-08593 in the name of Katy Clark— That the Parliament notes reports that the women's prison, HMP Cornton Vale, is set to close and be replaced by HMP & YOI Stirling on the same site by the summer of 2023; further notes, with concern, reports that Scotland has had one of the largest female prison populations in northern Europe since 2010; understands that nearly 40% of women charged are not charged for a violent offence, with 63% of women in the sentenced population indexed under Group 1 (Violence) in the recorded crime statistics; notes the findings of the International Review of Custodial Models for Women: Key Messages for Scotland by the Scottish Government social research department in 2015, which concluded that “countries with lower rates of female prison populations tend to have different sentencing practices, including a greater use of alternatives to custody and open prisons than is currently available in Scotland”; further notes the view that Scotland’s remand rates for women are too high, including in the West Scotland region; notes that the Scottish Prison Service confirmed in January 2023 that approximately 36% of women prisoners are on remand, higher than the percentage for prisoners who are men; further notes the view that the vulnerable nature of many women prisoners, offending patterns among women and the reported high percentage of women prisoners who are mothers and high percentage of women who have suffered brain injuries as a result of repeated domestic abuse, demonstrate that fewer women should be remanded into custody, and notes calls for the Scottish Government to reverse the real terms cuts to the justice budget, to fund and develop strategies to reduce the number of women on remand, and to consult with women’s groups to develop sustainable alternatives to custody that reflect the specific circumstances of women.

The meeting closed at 5.54 pm.

David McGill

Clerk of the Parliament
13 June 2023

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

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 13 June 2023—

Education, Children and Young People Committee, 4th Report, 2023 (Session 6): Stage 1 Report for Children (Care and Justice) (Scotland) Bill on 13 June 2023 (SP Paper 397)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 38th Report, 2023 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 13 June 2023 (SP Paper 399)

Legislative Consent Memorandum

The following memorandum was lodged on 13 June 2023—

Neil Gray, Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy: Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Electronic Trade Documents Bill (UK Parliament legislation) (LCM-S6-37a)

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 13 June 2023 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Scottish Canals Annual Report & Accounts 2021-22 (SG/2023/16) laid under section 24(3) of the Transport Act 1962 and section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan: progress report 2022-2023 (SG/2023/99) laid under Section 10(7)(a) of the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017

The 2021/22 audit of Scottish Canals (SG/2023/112) laid under section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

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