



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 3, No. 25, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 12 September 2023

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

- 1. Time for Reflection:** Rev Barry Hughes, Minister, St Mark's Parish Church, led Time for Reflection.
- 2. Topical Questions:** Questions were answered by Cabinet Secretaries.
- 3. Ministerial Statement:** The Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy (Elena Whitham) made a statement and answered questions on Drug Deaths.
- 4. Celebrating the Resilience of Scotland's Food and Drink Sector:** The Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands (Mairi Gougeon) moved S6M-10406—That the Parliament recognises the value of Scotland's food and drink sector and the significant contribution that it makes to the national economy, as well as to local economies and communities; welcomes the plan, published by Scotland Food and Drink, to create stability, sustainability, resilience and innovation in order to support the sector to succeed and prosper over the next 10 years; further welcomes the Scottish Government's commitment to invest £5 million to support delivery of this plan; acknowledges the challenges caused by Brexit, the Russian invasion of Ukraine and climate change, and the need for the sector to respond and adapt, and believes that the hard Brexit negotiated by the UK Government has created serious, long-term harms, including labour shortages and new barriers to trade, especially for Scottish food and drink exporters, while driving up inflation in food and supply chain costs.

Rachael Hamilton moved amendment S6M-10406.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-10406 in the name of Mairi Gougeon (Celebrating the Resilience of Scotland's Food and Drink Sector), leave out from “acknowledges” to end and insert “recognises both the challenges and the opportunities resulting from the United Kingdom leaving the European Union; acknowledges the challenges caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine and climate change, and the need for the sector to respond and adapt, and believes that allowing Scotland's food producers to adopt gene-editing technology would boost the sector's resilience, provide greater security against climate change disease and drought, and enhance crop yields, nutritional value and reliability.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 29, Against 84, Abstentions 0).

Rhoda Grant moved amendment S6M-10406.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-10406 in the name of Mairi Gougeon (Celebrating the Resilience of Scotland's Food and Drink Sector), insert at end “; recognises the plan set out by the Labour Party to stabilise the economy after the turmoil of the UK Conservative administration, reset the relationship with Europe, improve trading relationships and use the power of the Scotland Office to promote Scotland's excellent food and drink around the world; believes that it is unacceptable that so many people living in food poverty in Scotland are those who work in the food industry; considers that more action is needed to address low pay, zero-hours contracts and insecure work in Scotland's food and drink sector, and therefore welcomes the proposals in the Labour Party's New Deal for Working People; asserts that food production and a sustainable environment can work hand in hand for the benefit of both, and believes that the right to food should be enshrined in Scots law.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 16, Against 97, Abstentions 0).

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 83, Against 29, Abstentions 0).

5. Decision Time: The Parliament took a decision on item 4 as noted above.

6. Tackling Child Poverty: The Parliament debated S6M-10068 in the name of Bob Doris—That the Parliament strongly supports all measures to tackle child poverty; understands that 32% of children in Glasgow were estimated to live in relative poverty in 2022, compared with the wider Scottish rate of 24%; condemns what it sees as harmful UK Government policies such as the benefit cap and two-child limit, which it understands have forced as many as 20,000 children in Scotland into poverty; acknowledges that Glasgow city is reportedly the Scottish local authority worst hit by the two-child limit with, it understands, 3,990 recipients, or 54% of the households in receipt of Universal Credit or Child Tax Credits, not receiving financial support for at least one child in April 2023; considers that the Glasgow Maryhill and Springburn constituency is among the areas most seriously affected as, it understands, it contains the highest proportion of deprived postcodes in Scotland,

according to the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation; believes that the two-child limit causes disproportionate harm to low-income families and women survivors of domestic abuse or sexual assault, and notes the calls on the Scottish Government to increase representations to the UK Government to reverse the benefit cap and the two-child limit, which it considers undermine the work done to lift children out of poverty, and to introduce its own equivalent of the Scottish Child Payment in support of low-income families.

The meeting closed at 6.03 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
12 September 2023

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

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 12 September 2023—

Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee, 2nd Report, 2023
(Session 6): Embedding Public Participation in the Work of the Parliament (SP Paper 427)

Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee, 3rd Report, 2023
(Session 6): Embedding Public Participation in the Work of the Parliament:
Summary Version (SP Paper 428)

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee, 12th Report, 2023 (Session 6):
Scotland's electricity infrastructure: inhibitor or enabler of our energy
ambitions? (SP Paper 432)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 51st Report 2023 (Session
6): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law
Reform Committee on 12 September 2023 (SP Paper 433)

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 11 September 2023 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Disability Assistance (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2023
[draft]
laid under section 96(2) of the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018

Negative Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 8 September 2023 and are subject to the negative procedure—

Parking Attendants (Wearing of Uniforms) (North Ayrshire Council) Regulations 2023
(SSI 2023/248)
laid under section 134(6) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984

Road Traffic (Permitted Parking Area and Special Parking Area) (North Ayrshire
Council) Designation Order 2023 (SSI 2023/249)
laid under paragraph 4 of schedule 3 of the Road Traffic Act 1991

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 11 September 2023 and are subject to the negative procedure—

Local Government Investments (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2023 (SSI 2023/255)

laid under section 40(5) of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003

Sports Grounds and Sporting Events (Designation) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2023 (SSI 2023/257)

laid under section 18(3) of the Criminal Law (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 1995

Laid Only Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 8 September 2023 and is not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Transport (Scotland) Act 2019 (Commencement No. 7) Regulations 2023 (SSI 2023/250 (C. 20))

laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

Other Documents

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 8 September 2023 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Risk Management Authority - Annual Report and Accounts 2022-23 (SG/2023/87) laid under Section 13(3) of the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2003 & Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 11 September 2023 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Transport Scotland Annual Report & Accounts 2022-2023 (SG/2023/160) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

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