



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 3, No. 20, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 28 June 2023

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Constitution, External Affairs and Culture, then on Justice and Home Affairs, and then on Education and Skills, were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.

2. Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Bill - UK Legislation: The Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs (Angela Constance) moved S6M-09722—That the Parliament agrees with the recommendation in the Scottish Government’s supplementary legislative consent memorandum to withhold consent for the UK Government’s Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Bill.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 83, Against 27, Abstentions 0).

3. Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Bill – Stage 3: The Bill was considered at Stage 3.

The following amendments were agreed to (without division): 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 1, 9, 10, 11 and 12.

The following amendment was disagreed to (by division): 3 (For 42, Against 63, Abstentions 0).

4. Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Bill: The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice (Shirley-Anne Somerville) moved S6M-09725—That the Parliament agrees that the Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Bill be passed.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 108, Against 0, Abstentions 0).

5. Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Bill - UK Legislation: The Minister for Community Wealth and Public Finance (Tom Arthur) moved S6M-09723—That the Parliament agrees that the relevant provisions of the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Bill, introduced in the House of Commons on 22 September 2022, so far as these matters fall within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament or alter the executive competence of the Scottish Ministers, should be considered by the UK Parliament.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

6. Appointment of the Scottish Information Commissioner: Martin Whitfield, on behalf of the Selection Panel, moved S6M-09727—That the Parliament nominates David Hamilton to His Majesty The King for appointment as the Scottish Information Commissioner under section 42 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

7. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-09753—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 5 September 2023

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Scottish Government Business

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 6 September 2023

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy; Finance and Parliamentary Business

followed by Scottish Government Business

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 7 September 2023

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, Net Zero and Just Transition

followed by Scottish Government Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 12 September 2023

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Scottish Government Business

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 13 September 2023

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands; NHS

Recovery, Health and Social Care

followed by Scottish Government Business

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 14 September 2023

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: Social Justice

followed by Scottish Government Business

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 4 September 2023, 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.

The motion was agreed to.

8. Stage 1 Timetable: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-09754—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Circular Economy (Scotland) Bill at stage 1 be completed by 26 January 2024.

The motion was agreed to.

9. Stage 1 Timetable: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-09755—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Victims, Witnesses, and Justice Reform (Scotland) Bill at stage 1 be completed by 29 March 2024.

The motion was agreed to.

10. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-09756—That the Parliament agrees that the Deposit and Return Scheme for Scotland Amendment Regulations 2023 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

11. Committee Duration: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-09720—That the Parliament agrees, further to motion S6M-00393, that the duration of the COVID-19 Recovery Committee be revised from “For the whole session of the Parliament” to “Until Friday 14 July 2023”.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

12. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-09757—That the Parliament agrees that the First-tier Tribunal for Scotland Local Taxation Chamber and Upper Tribunal for Scotland (Composition and Procedure) (Miscellaneous Amendment) Regulations 2023 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

13. Designation of Lead Committee: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-09758—That the Parliament agrees that the Criminal Justice Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the *supplementary* legislative consent memorandum on the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Bill.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

14. Designation of Lead Committee: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-09759—That the Parliament agrees that the Social Justice and Social Security Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the Scottish Employment Injuries Advisory Council Bill.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

15. Designation of Lead Committee: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-09760—That the Parliament agrees that the Criminal Justice Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the *supplementary* legislative consent memorandum on the Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Bill.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

16. Approval of SI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-09787 —That the Parliament agrees that the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (Amendment) Order 2023 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

17. Committee Membership: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-09761—That the

Parliament agrees that *the following changes to committee membership will apply from close of business on Thursday 29 June 2023*—

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

Keith Brown be appointed to replace Alasdair Allan as a member of the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee;

John Swinney be appointed to replace Collette Stevenson as a member of the Criminal Justice Committee;

Kevin Stewart be appointed to replace Fiona Hyslop as a member of the Economy and Fair Work Committee;

Ash Regan be appointed to replace Michelle Thomson as a member of the Economy and Fair Work Committee;

Michelle Thomson be appointed to replace Bob Doris as a member of the Education, Children and Young People Committee;

Ben Macpherson be appointed to replace Fiona Hyslop as a member of the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee;

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

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

Christine Grahame be appointed to replace Emma Harper as a member of the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee; and

Ivan McKee be appointed to replace Bob Doris as a member of the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

18. Committee Membership: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-09790— That the Parliament agrees that the following changes to committee membership will apply from close of business on Thursday 29 June 2023—

Jamie Halcro Johnston be appointed to replace Douglas Lumsden as a member of the Finance and Public Administration Committee;

Meghan Gallacher be appointed to replace Rachael Hamilton as a member of the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee;

Roz McCall be appointed to replace Miles Briggs as a member of the Social Justice and Social Security Committee;

Pam Gosal be appointed to replace Annie Wells as a member of the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee;

Maurice Golden be appointed to replace Alexander Stewart as a member of the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee;

Liam Kerr be appointed to replace Stephen Kerr as a member of the Education, Children and Young People Committee;

Sharon Dowey be appointed to replace Jamie Greene as a member of the Criminal Justice Committee;

Graham Simpson be appointed to replace Craig Hoy as a member of the Public Audit Committee;

Murdo Fraser be appointed to replace Jamie Halcro Johnston as a member of the Economy and Fair Work Committee;

Brian Whittle be appointed to replace Graham Simpson as a member of the Economy and Fair Work Committee;

Annie Wells be appointed to replace Alexander Stewart as a member of the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee;

Stephen Kerr be appointed to replace Edward Mountain as a member of the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee;

* *

Alexander Stewart be appointed to replace Maurice Golden as a member of the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee; and

Annie Wells be appointed to replace Pam Gosal as a member of the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

19. Substitution on Committees: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-09791— That the Parliament agrees that the following changes to committee substitutes will apply from close of business on Thursday 29 June 2023—

Graham Simpson be appointed to replace Murdo Fraser as the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party substitute on the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee;

Murdo Fraser be appointed to replace Jamie Halcro Johnston as the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party substitute on the Finance and Public Administration Committee;

Alexander Stewart be appointed to replace Maurice Golden as the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party substitute on the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee;

Oliver Mundell be appointed to replace Sharon Dowey as the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party substitute on the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee;

Roz McCall be appointed to replace Meghan Gallacher as the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party substitute on the Education, Children and Young People Committee;

Jamie Halcro Johnston be appointed to replace Edward Mountain as the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party substitute on the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee;

* *

Edward Mountain be appointed to replace Stephen Kerr as the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party substitute on the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee;

Craig Hoy be appointed to replace Roz McCall as the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party substitute on the Public Audit Committee; and

Pam Gosal be appointed to replace Graham Simpson as the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party substitute on the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

20. 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 5.13 pm.

The motion was agreed to.

21. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 2, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 as noted above.

22. The 50th Anniversary of the Murder of Margaret McLaughlin: The Parliament debated S6M-09600 in the name of Russell Findlay—That the Parliament recognises that 6 July 2023 will mark the 50th anniversary of the murder of Margaret McLaughlin in Carluke, Lanarkshire; notes that Margaret McLaughlin was aged 23 when she was murdered while walking from her home to Carluke train station; further notes that the murder investigation was reportedly led by Detective Chief

Superintendent William Muncie; recognises that the police investigation resulted in the arrest of the Carluke resident, George Beattie, who was a teenager at the time; notes that George Beattie was convicted of Margaret McLaughlin's murder at the High Court in Glasgow in October 1973 and consequently spent around 15 years in prison; understands that George Beattie continues to deny his guilt and that his conviction has been the subject of a long-running campaign alleging it to be a miscarriage of justice; notes that the campaign was covered in the BBC documentary series, Rough Justice, which was produced by the journalist, Peter Hill; further notes campaigners' concerns about the integrity of the police investigation; notes that those concerns were referenced in a speech made to the House of Commons in March 1993 by Jimmy Hood, who was then an MP; understands that the criminologist, Professor David Wilson, who is originally from Carluke, wrote a book about the murder of Margaret McLaughlin; notes that the book, Signs of Murder, which was published in July 2020, reportedly identifies a "more likely suspect", who has since been named publicly as Les Jardine; understands that, in 2020, Margaret McLaughlin's then fiancé, Bob Alexander, spoke to the media for the first time since her murder; notes that Bob Alexander reportedly believes that George Beattie is innocent of Margaret McLaughlin's murder and that he was "fitted up" by the police; understands that George Beattie believes that there is no available route to challenge his murder conviction, and notes the view that Police Scotland and the Crown Office should be encouraged to conduct a full review of the murder of Margaret McLaughlin.

The meeting closed at 5.45 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
28 June 2023

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

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 28 June 2023—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 46th Report, 2023 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 27 June 2023 (SP Paper 422)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 47th Report, 2023 (Session 6): Delegated powers relevant to Scotland in the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Bill (UK Parliament legislation (SP Paper 424)

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 28 June 2023 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Climate Change Committee: Progress in reducing UK emissions: 2023 Report to Parliament (SG/2023/135) laid under Section 36(1) of the UK Climate Change Act 2008

Statement on call-in of planning applications by Scottish Ministers (SG/2023/127) laid under Section 46A (1) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997

Report by the Scottish Ministers in exercise of the power in Section 1(1) of the UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Continuity) (Scotland) Act 2021 for the reporting period 1 September 2021 – 31 August 2022 and the intended future use of the power under Section 1(1) in the upcoming reporting period 1 September 2022 – 31 August 2023 (SG/2023/137) laid under Section 10(1) of the UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Continuity) (Scotland) Act 2021

Document Summarising Consideration of the representations made on the draft annual report on the Scottish Ministers exercise of the power in Section 1 of the UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Continuity) (Scotland) Act 2021 laid in draft in Parliament on 27 October 2022 (SG/2023/138) laid under Section 11(5) of the UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Continuity) (Scotland) Act 2021

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Public Information on:

Telephone: 0131 348 5000 or 0800 092 7500

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