



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 2, No. 96, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 20 April 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 First Minister (Humza Yousaf).
- 3. Damp Housing in Scotland:** The Parliament debated S6M-07511 in the name of Foysof Choudhury—That the Parliament notes the tragic death of Awaab Ishak due to mouldy housing; notes the view that there is a need for urgent action to avoid similar tragedies happening in Scotland, including in the Lothian region; recognises that mould and damp in homes can be dangerous and cause health problems; understands that the cost of living crisis has caused constituents across Scotland to avoid heating their homes, which can further exacerbate the problem of damp and mould; further understands that damp housing is disproportionately affecting those living in poverty; acknowledges the calls for every constituent in Scotland to have a right to safe, warm housing; notes the view that extra investment for a whole house retrofitting programme is required to tackle problems caused by damp housing; further notes the calls for the creation of a grant scheme to tackle the problems of damp housing across the housing sector, including social housing, housing associations and the private sector; notes the belief that there is a need for increased support and guidance for constituents on the prevention of damp in properties across Scotland; believes that this issue is of nationwide importance, and notes the calls for all political parties in the Parliament to collaborate to tackle damp housing in Scotland.

4. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Social Justice, Housing and Local Government were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and Ministers.

5. Ministerial Statement: The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity (Lorna Slater) made a statement and answered questions on Deposit Return Scheme.

6. Delivering on Climate Change and the Just Transition: The Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Just Transition (Màiri McAllan) moved S6M-08626—That the Parliament recognises the scale and the urgency of the climate crisis and the need for Scotland to show continued global leadership in a Just Transition to net zero; further recognises that the draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan sets out a just and fair pathway to maximise the opportunities of that transition; acknowledges that a highly-skilled workforce will be required to deliver the opportunities of a net zero economy, including Scotland's existing oil and gas and construction workforces, and that upskilling, reskilling and attracting new talent should be a key just transition priority of the Scottish Government; celebrates the significant contribution of those who manage land and marine areas, including those working in farming and fishing, to food security, the economy and the environment; agrees that Scotland's economic potential as a net zero nation is vast, including world-leading clean energy sectors and supply chains, its nature-based sectors and food and drink, through innovative green technology and services, including finance, and by maximising Scotland's strengths and potential in the decarbonisation of transport and the built environment; endorses that Scotland's sectoral Just Transition Plans must be co-designed by those most impacted by the transition, including workers and trades unions, and anticipates the contribution that Scotland's next Climate Change Plan, and both site and sectoral Just Transition Plans, will make on the journey to a fairer, greener Scotland.

Liam Kerr moved amendment S6M-08626.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-08626 in the name of Màiri McAllan (Delivering on Climate Change and the Just Transition), insert “; recommends that a science and evidence-based approach be taken to deliver on national net zero targets and ensure a just transition; emphasises the need for Scotland to act as a responsible global partner by contributing to global efforts to support mitigation, adaption, and green technology projects, and not offsetting carbon emissions to other nations; asserts that collaboration with the UK Government and other devolved nations is essential to delivering a just transition; argues that the draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan lets down the people of Scotland and fails to provide a fair and just pathway to maximise the opportunities of that transition; notes that greater efforts are required to improve circularity within the Scottish economy, and believes that a workable Deposit Return Scheme, which addresses the current flaws, must be delivered.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 47, Against 61, Abstentions 0).

Sarah Boyack moved amendment S6M-08626.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-08626 in the name of Màiri McAllan (Delivering on Climate Change and the Just Transition), leave out from “further recognises” to end and insert “notes the damning report from the UK Climate Change Committee, which states that the Scottish Government's targets are “in danger of becoming meaningless”, and that more action must urgently be taken; agrees that the Scottish Government's plans are insufficient to meet Scotland's climate change targets and believes that a stronger emphasis on adaptations to address climate risks is needed; recognises Scotland's huge potential as a net zero nation and considers that it is well placed to realise the opportunities of a net zero economy, with its highly-skilled workforce, including in the oil and gas and energy sectors; believes that, if the Scottish Government is to deliver a just transition for these workers and communities, it must increase efforts in upskilling, reskilling and attracting new talent in these sectors; celebrates the significant contribution of those who manage land and marine areas, and is concerned that they must not be left behind in the transition to net zero, and therefore calls for greater support for community-based projects; recognises the huge benefits that could come to Scotland through the Labour Party's proposed Green Prosperity Plan, which would create a clean power system across the UK by 2030, and supports the proposals to create a publicly-owned energy generation company so that the profits, jobs and benefits of Scotland's natural resources are no longer offshored but benefit local people.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 16, Against 93, Abstentions 0).

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 94, Against 0, Abstentions 16).

7. 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 4.59 pm.

The motion was agreed to.

8. Decision Time: The Parliament took a decision on item 6 as noted above.

9. Bringing Back the Eurasian Lynx to Scotland: The Parliament debated S6M-07598 in the name of Kenneth Gibson—That the Parliament notes the recent campaign for the Eurasian lynx, a medium-sized wildcat native to Scotland, to be reintroduced; understands that lynx have been extinct in Britain for around 500 years; is aware that this was probably caused by widespread loss of woodland, the collapse of wild deer populations and hunting by humans; acknowledges a study carried out by the Lynx to Scotland partnership, made up of Trees for Life, Lifescape and Scotland: The Big Picture, which sought to assess the social feasibility of potential lynx reintroduction through consultation with stakeholders and communities in the Cairngorms National Park and Argyll, and found that there was sufficient support for lynx reintroduction among stakeholders and a desire among others to further investigate the potential, to warrant a continued exploration of feasibility;

considers that the case for lynx reintroduction is both moral and ecological and that lynx would make Scotland's ecosystems richer and stronger; believes that lynx are an important species due to their role in maintaining balance and diversity in an ecosystem, as they help regulate numbers and behaviour of deer and some smaller carnivores; is aware that lynx are mainly crepuscular animals, and pose no danger to people; considers that attacks on livestock such as sheep are uncommon; is aware that lynx have slowly spread across mainland Europe in the last few decades, and have been reintroduced in several European countries, including Germany, Switzerland and France; believes that lynx could also act as high-profile ambassadors for nature-rich landscapes, attracting valuable tourism revenue in Scotland's rural communities, and notes the calls on the Scottish Government to rectify lynx extinction in Scotland by a controlled reintroduction, once the necessary ecological and practical assessments have been undertaken.

The meeting closed at 5.45 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
20 April 2023

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 20 April 2023—

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee, 9th Report, 2023 (Session 6): Standing Order Rule Changes – miscellaneous amendments (SP Paper 352)

Subordinate Legislation

Negative Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 20 April 2023 and are subject to the negative procedure—

Heat Networks (Heat Network Zones and Building Assessment Reports) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 (SSI 2023/123)
laid under section 99(4) of Heat Networks (Scotland) Act 2021

Public Procurement (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 (SSI 2023/124)
laid under paragraph 2(2) of schedule 2 of the Trade (Australia and New Zealand) Act 2023 and section 44(3) of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 20 April 2023 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

How the Scottish Government is set up to deliver climate change goals: Governance and risk management arrangements for net zero targets and adaptation outcomes: A report prepared for the Auditor General for Scotland (AGS/2023/2) laid under the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority Business Plan 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2026 (SG/2023/34) laid under Schedule 3 of the Energy Act 2004

Scottish Law Commission Annual Report 2022 (SG/2023/80) laid under section 3(3) of the Law Commissions Act 1965

Published by the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body

All documents are available on
the Scottish Parliament website at:

www.parliament.scot/documents

For information on the Scottish Parliament contact
Public Information on:

Telephone: 0131 348 5000 or 0800 092 7500

Email: sp.info@parliament.scot

Live chat on parliament.scot

You can write to us in any language or contact us
using the Text Relay service or in British Sign

Language through contactScotland-BSL.

© Parliamentary copyright. Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body

The Scottish Parliament's copyright policy can be found on the website -
www.parliament.scot or by contacting Public Information.