



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 3, No. 32, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 27 September 2023

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

**1. Portfolio Questions:** Questions on Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy, and then on Finance and Parliamentary Business, were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and Ministers.

**2. Stage 3 Timetable:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-10622—That the Parliament agrees that, during stage 3 of the Patient Safety Commissioner for Scotland Bill, debate on groups of amendments shall, subject to Rule 9.8.4A, be brought to a conclusion by the time limits indicated, those time limits being calculated from when the stage begins and excluding any periods when other business is under consideration or when a meeting of the Parliament is suspended (other than a suspension following the first division in the stage being called) or otherwise not in progress:

Groups 1 to 3: 40 minutes

Groups 4 to 6: 1 hour 20 minutes

Groups 7 to 9: 2 hours

Groups 10 and 11: 2 hours 15 minutes.

The motion was agreed to.

**3. Patient Safety Commissioner for Scotland Bill - Stage 3:** The Bill was considered at Stage 3.

The following amendments were agreed to (without division): 3, 13, 4, 5, 1, 2 and 8.

The following amendments were disagreed to (by division)—

9 (For 48, Against 58, Abstentions 0)  
10 (For 47, Against 59, Abstentions 0)  
11 (For 48, Against 58, Abstentions 0)  
3A (For 49, Against 58, Abstentions 0)  
12 (For 48, Against 58, Abstentions 0)  
14 (For 48, Against 58, Abstentions 0)  
15 (For 49, Against 58, Abstentions 0)  
6 (For 49, Against 58, Abstentions 0)  
7 (For 46, Against 62, Abstentions 0)  
16 (For 49, Against 58, Abstentions 0)  
17 (For 50, Against 58, Abstentions 0)  
18 (For 50, Against 58, Abstentions 0)  
19 (For 49, Against 58, Abstentions 0)  
20 (For 50, Against 58, Abstentions 0)  
23 (For 48, Against 59, Abstentions 0).

Amendment 22 was moved and, no member having objected, withdrawn.

Amendment 21 was not moved.

**4. Patient Safety Commissioner for Scotland Bill:** The Minister for Public Health and Women's Health (Jenni Minto) moved S6M-10594—That the Parliament agrees that the Patient Safety Commissioner for Scotland Bill be passed.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 114, Against 0, Abstentions 0).

**5. Business Programme:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-10623—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 3 October 2023

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Topical Questions (if selected)

*followed by* Ministerial Statement: Scotland's Prison Population

*followed by* Scottish Government Debate: Protection of Scottish Parliament Powers

*followed by* Committee Announcements

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Wednesday 4 October 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 Debate: Reversal of the UK Government's Two-child Benefit Cap

*followed by* Legislative Consent Motion: Energy Bill - UK Legislation

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Approval of SSIs (if required)

5.30 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Thursday 5 October 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 Debate: Support for the Veterans and Armed Forces Community

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 24 October 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 25 October 2023

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Constitution, External Affairs and Culture; Justice and Home Affairs

*followed by* Scottish Labour Party Business

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Approval of SSIs (if required)

5.10 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Thursday 26 October 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: Education and Skills

*followed by* Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee Debate: Public Participation Inquiry

*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 2 October 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.

**6. Stage 1 Extension:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-10624—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Bill at stage 1 be extended to 1 December 2023.

The motion was agreed to.

**7. Consideration of SSI:** Alexander Burnett, on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-10625—That the Parliament agrees that nothing further be

done under the Deer (Close Seasons) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2023 (SSI 2023/184).

The motion was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 29, Against 70, Abstentions 16).

**8. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-10626—That the Parliament agrees that the Deer (Firearms etc.) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2023 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 85, Against 29, Abstentions 0).

**9. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-10627—That the Parliament agrees that the Land and Buildings Transaction Tax (Green Freeports Relief) (Scotland) Order 2023 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 105, Against 7, Abstentions 0).

**10. 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 6.12 pm.

The motion was agreed to.

**11. Decision Time:** The Parliament took decisions on items 4, 7, 8 and 9 as noted above.

**12. Rural Visa Pilot Scheme:** The Parliament debated S6M-10392 in the name of Kate Forbes—That the Parliament recognises what it sees as the vital importance of seasonal and migrant workers to Scotland’s £15 billion food and drink industry and the wider rural economy; appreciates the need for businesses to have access to the workforce that they require to carry out what it sees as their invaluable work in providing world-class produce; recognises the view expressed by NFU Scotland that, “The labour shortages encountered across the whole chain in 2021 – on farm, haulage, processing and packing – coupled with the Government’s late delivery of the seasonal worker pilot scheme led to significant crop losses and millions of pounds of wastage”; understands that employers in the UK have found it difficult to source domestic labour to take up seasonal employment on farms, and that, in 2020, despite the widely publicised Pick for Britain campaign, UK residents made up only 11% of this workforce, and domestic recruitment in 2021 was at 5% for Scotland; notes previous reports that the East of Scotland Growers, the UK’s biggest brassica producer, incurred losses of 3.5 million heads of broccoli and 1.5 million heads of cauliflower due to labour shortages; further notes that Seafood Scotland has stated that, within seafood processing, there was a considerable reliance on a predominantly Eastern European workforce; understands that these workers comprised 52% of the rural workforce across Scotland, 69% in the north east, and up to 92% in certain processing facilities; notes the recent reports of businesses in Fort William, Portree and elsewhere in Highlands struggling to find staff; welcomes what it sees as the invaluable contribution that seasonal and migrant workers make to Scotland’s society and economy, and notes the calls for the UK Government to

urgently review its position on the Scottish Government's proposal for a Rural Visa Pilot Scheme, and for an urgent reassessment of immigration policy to increase access to the labour that it considers Scotland needs for its economy and communities to prosper.

The meeting closed at 7.12 pm.

**David McGill**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
27 September 2023

## **Appendix**

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

### **Other Documents**

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 27 September 2023 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**Cleaner Air for Scotland 2 - Towards a Better Place for Everyone 2022/23 Progress Report (SG/2023/197)** laid at the request of a member of the Scottish Government and not under any laying power

**HM Inspectorate of Prosecution in Scotland Annual Report 2022-2023 (SG/2023/185)** laid under Section 79(8) of the Criminal Proceedings etc. (Reform) (Scotland) Act 2007

**Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body Annual Report and Accounts 2022-23 (SG/2023/182)** laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

**Investing in Scotland's infrastructure - A briefing paper prepared for the Auditor General for Scotland (AGS/2023/8)** laid before the Scottish Parliament under the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

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