



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 33 Session 4

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 24 September 2015

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 (Nicola Sturgeon).

**3. The Postcode Penalty:** The Parliament debated S4M-14183 in the name of John Finnie—That the Parliament welcomes the publication of Citizens Advice Scotland's report, *The Postcode Penalty: The Distance Travelled*; notes with concern the continuing problems highlighted in the report relating to the delivery of online shopping to people in the Highlands and Islands; understands that, while fewer online retailers now impose a surcharge for delivery, those who do have increased these charges by 17.6% for customers in the Highlands and 15.8% for island residents since 2012; welcomes the report's recommendations, including extending the road equivalent tariff to cover delivery vehicles on ferries and the proposal to encourage delivery to ferries in partnership with CalMac, and notes calls for the Scottish Government to continue to work with Citizens Advice Scotland, trading standards services, the online retail industry and enterprise bodies to support innovation in the interests of consumers.

**4. Inquiries into Fatal Accidents and Sudden Deaths etc. (Scotland) Bill:** The Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs (Paul Wheelhouse) moved S4M-14328—That the Parliament agrees to the general principles of the Inquiries into Fatal Accidents and Sudden Deaths etc. (Scotland) Bill.

After debate, the motion was agreed to (DT).

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

The meeting closed at 5.01 pm.

**P E Grice**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
24 September 2015

## **Appendix**

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

### **Other Documents**

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 24 September 2015 and are not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Scottish Information Commissioner 2014/15 Annual Report (SG/2015/127)  
laid under Section 46 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act  
2002

Scottish Information Commissioner Annual Accounts for the year ended 31  
March 2015 (SG/2015/138)  
laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability  
(Scotland) Act 2000

### **Committee Reports**

The following report was published on 25 September 2015—

Devolution (Further Powers) Committee, 7th Report 2015 (Session 4):  
Parliamentary Term Length: Report on the Section 30 Order (SP Paper 793)

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