



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 81 Session 4

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 11 February 2016

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 Importance of Local Newspapers:** The Parliament debated S4M-15408 in the name of Graeme Dey—That the Parliament celebrates the importance of local newspapers to communities across Scotland; believes that a well-resourced, diverse, free press is vital to democracy in Scotland and provides a type of coverage not available via other platforms; notes with concern the trading update made by Johnston Press on 19 January 2016 in which it states “a number of brands have been identified that are not part of its long-term future, as they fall outside its selected markets, do not match the audience focus, or do not offer the levels of digital growth sought by the Group. A process has been initiated to explore the sale of these assets to identified parties”; understands that the *Press Gazette* has published a Johnston Press classification of its titles, with its newspapers falling into four categories, uber, primary, core and sub-core, with Scottish titles including the *East Fife Mail*, *The Galloway Gazette*, *The Glasgow South and Eastwood Extra*, the *Midlothian Advertiser*, the *Arbroath Herald*, the *Buchan Observer*, the *Carrick Gazette*, the *Deeside Piper*, *The Ellon Times*, the *Hawick News*, the *Linlithgow Gazette*, the *Mearns Leader*, the *Selkirk Weekend Advertiser*, *The Buteman and Angus County Press Weekly*, which serves Brechin, Forfar and Montrose, having been marked as being sub-core; notes that the *Press Gazette* has stated that

Johnston Press has shed half of its journalists since 2009, and expresses concern at the decline in fortunes of traditional, local papers and the impact that this is having on journalistic employment.

**4. Business Motion:** Joe FitzPatrick, on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S4M-15609—That the Parliament agrees that, during stage 3 of the Community Justice (Scotland) Bill, debate on groups of amendments shall, subject to Rule 9.8.4A, be brought to a conclusion by the time limit indicated, that time limit 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 4: 30 minutes  
Groups 5 to 8: 1 hour.

The motion was agreed to.

**5. Community Justice (Scotland) Bill - Stage 3:** The Bill was considered at Stage 3.

The following amendments were agreed to (without division): 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 26, 27, 10, 11, 12, 28, 13, 29, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 30, 31, 21, 22, 23, 24, 32, 25A, 25.

Amendment 3 was agreed to (by division: For 99, Against 10, Abstentions 0).

Amendment 33 was disagreed to (by division: For 12, Against 98, Abstentions 0).

**6. Community Justice (Scotland) Bill - Stage 3:** The Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs (Paul Wheelhouse) moved S4M-15607—That the Parliament agrees that the Community Justice (Scotland) Bill be passed.

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

**7. Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Bill:** The Minister for Public Health (Maureen Watt) moved S4M-15608—That the Parliament agrees to the general principles of the Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Bill.

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

**8. Scottish Rate Resolution:** The Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Constitution and Economy (John Swinney) moved S4M-15497—That the Parliament agrees that the Scottish rate of income tax for tax year 2016-17 is 10%.

After debate, the motion was agreed to (by division: For 74, Against 35, Abstentions 0).

**9. Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Bill: Financial Resolution:** The Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Constitution and Economy (John

Swinney) moved S4M-15260—That the Parliament, for the purposes of any Act of the Scottish Parliament resulting from the Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Bill, agrees to—

(a) any expenditure of a kind referred to in Rule 9.12.3(b) of the Parliament's Standing Orders arising in consequence of the Act, and

(b) any charge or payment in relation to which Rule 9.12.4 of the Standing Orders applies arising in consequence of the Act.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**10. Decision Time:** The Parliament took decisions on items 6, 7 and 9 as noted above.

The meeting closed at 6.37 pm.

**P E Grice**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
11 February 2016

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

**Subordinate Legislation**

**Affirmative instruments**

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 11 February 2016 and are subject to the provisional affirmative procedure—

Scottish Landfill Tax (Qualifying Material) Order 2016 (SSI 2016/93)  
laid under section 41(3) and (4)(d) and (e) of the Landfill Tax (Scotland)  
Act 2014

Scottish Landfill Tax (Standard Rate and Lower Rate) Order 2016 (SSI  
2016/94)  
laid under section 41(3) and (4)(c) of the Landfill Tax (Scotland) Act  
2014

**Committee Reports**

The following reports are being published on 12 February 2016—

Local Government and Regeneration Committee, 5<sup>th</sup> Report, 2016 (Session  
4): Subordinate Legislation (SP Paper 917)

Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee, 4<sup>th</sup> Report, 2016 (Session 4):  
Subordinate Legislation (SP Paper 914)



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