



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 84 Session 4

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 25 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. Israel Needs Cultural Bridges, not Boycotts:** The Parliament debated S4M-15573 in the name of Jackson Carlaw—That the Parliament acknowledges the recently published open letter signed by over 150 high-profile cultural and political figures in support of the aims of Culture for Coexistence, an independent UK network representing a cross-section from the cultural world; notes that this open letter calls for an end to cultural boycotts of Israel and Israeli artists; notes the views expressed in the letter in support of a two-state solution and the promotion of greater understanding, mutual acceptance and peace through cultural engagement; notes that one example of this cultural exchange took place in 2015 when the Israeli artist, Matan Ben-Cnaan, won first prize in the 2015 BP International Portrait Award and was given the opportunity to teach art to local school children at the opening of the exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery; hopes that, through groups such as the Centre for Scotland and Israel Relations, based in East Renfrewshire, similar educational and cultural programmes will take place in the coming months, and notes the views expressed in the letter that “Cultural engagement builds bridges, nurtures freedom and positive movement for change. We wholly endorse encouraging such a powerful tool for change rather than boycotting its use”.

**4. Motion without Notice:** Jackson Carlaw moved without notice that, under Rule 8.14.3, the debate be extended by up to 30 minutes. The motion was agreed to.

**5. Local Government Finance (Scotland) Order 2016 [draft]:** The Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Constitution and Economy (John Swinney) moved S4M-15735—That the Parliament agrees that the Local Government Finance (Scotland) Order 2016 [draft] be approved

After debate, the motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 73, Against 35, Abstentions 0).

**6. Ministerial Statement:** The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning (Angela Constance) made a statement and answered questions on Programme of Child Protection Work.

**7. Scottish Elections (Dates) Bill:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Joe FitzPatrick) moved S4M-15709—That the Parliament agrees that the Scottish Elections (Dates) Bill be passed.

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

**8. Criminal Verdicts (Scotland) Bill:** Michael McMahon moved S4M-15429—That the Parliament agrees to the general principles of the Criminal Verdicts (Scotland) Bill.

After debate, the motion was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 28, Against 80, Abstentions 0).

**9. Committee Membership:** Joe FitzPatrick, on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S4M-15740—That the Parliament agrees that Bob Doris be appointed to replace Fiona McLeod as a member of the Health and Sport Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**10. Decision Time:** The Parliament took decisions on items 5, 7, 8 and 9 as noted above.

The meeting closed at 5.03 pm.

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

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

**Subordinate Legislation**

**Laid only instruments**

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 25 February 2016 and is not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015 (Commencement No. 1 and Transitory Provisions) Regulations 2016 (SSI 2016/128 (C. 12))  
laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

**Committee Reports**

The following report was published on 26 February 2016—

Local Government and Regeneration Committee, 6<sup>th</sup> Report, 2016 (Session 4): Subordinate Legislation (SP Paper 922)

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