



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 1, No. 16, Session 5

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 29 June 2016

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Communities, Social Security and Equalities were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and a Minister.

2. Ministerial Statement: The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution (Derek Mackay) made a statement and answered questions on Provisional Outturn 2015-16.

3. Gender and the Workplace: The Minister for Employability and Training (Jamie Hepburn) moved S5M-00607—That the Parliament welcomes the Scottish Government publication, *New Perspectives on the Gender Pay Gap*, which shows that the gender pay gap is lower than in the UK and has reduced substantially over the long term, recognises that a significant gap persists for some age groups, sectors and occupations and explores key drivers such as inequality of unpaid care, traditional social or employment attitudes and culture; notes the wide range of Scottish Government policies designed to help close the gap and benefit women in the workplace, including encouraging payment of the living wage, increasing free childcare, challenging pregnancy and maternity discrimination, addressing occupational segregation, working towards gender balance on boards and promoting family-friendly and flexible working; agrees with the establishment of an advisory council for women and girls; welcomes the addition to the National Performance Framework of the new national indicator tracking the gender pay gap over time, and commends the work of the Strategic Group on Women and Work for helping bring this agenda forward across the various sectors of the Scottish economy.

Annie Wells moved amendment S5M-00607.1 to motion S5M-00607—

Leave out from “, including” to end and insert—

“; welcomes the UK Government’s introduction of the national living wage; calls on the Scottish Government to increase free childcare to include a higher proportion of disadvantaged one and two-year-olds and to implement this in a way that is flexible with modern working patterns; notes Scottish Government measures to challenge pregnancy and maternity discrimination, address occupational segregation, work toward gender balance on boards and promote family-friendly and flexible working; agrees with the establishment of an advisory council for women and girls; welcomes the addition to the National Performance Framework of the new national indicator tracking the gender pay gap over time and commends the work of the Strategic Group on Women and Work for helping bring this agenda forward across the various sectors of the Scottish economy, and also notes that work must be done to encourage appropriate male and female representation across all professions.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 30, Against 93, Abstentions 0).

Alex Rowley moved amendment S5M-00607.2 to motion S5M-00607—

Insert at end—

“; recognises that employment and industrial barriers faced by women have a negative impact on Scotland’s economy with, for example, the Royal Society of Edinburgh explaining that the lack of women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) jobs is a loss of a potential £170 million per annum to the Scottish economy, and believes that the Scottish Government must prioritise supporting women into senior management positions and industries where they are currently overlooked”.

After debate, the amendment was agreed to.

The motion, as amended, was then agreed to.

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—That the Parliament welcomes the Scottish Government publication, *New Perspectives on the Gender Pay Gap*, which shows that the gender pay gap is lower than in the UK and has reduced substantially over the long term, recognises that a significant gap persists for some age groups, sectors and occupations and explores key drivers such as inequality of unpaid care, traditional social or employment attitudes and culture; notes the wide range of Scottish Government policies designed to help close the gap and benefit women in the workplace, including encouraging payment of the living wage, increasing free childcare, challenging pregnancy and maternity discrimination, addressing occupational segregation, working towards gender balance on boards and promoting family-friendly and flexible working; agrees with the establishment of an advisory council for women and girls; welcomes the addition to the National Performance Framework of the new national indicator tracking the gender pay gap over time;

commends the work of the Strategic Group on Women and Work for helping bring this agenda forward across the various sectors of the Scottish economy; recognises that employment and industrial barriers faced by women have a negative impact on Scotland's economy with, for example, the Royal Society of Edinburgh explaining that the lack of women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) jobs is a loss of a potential £170 million per annum to the Scottish economy, and believes that the Scottish Government must prioritise supporting women into senior management positions and industries where they are currently overlooked.

4. Business Motion: Joe FitzPatrick, on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S5M-0629—That the Parliament agrees the following programme of business—

Tuesday 6 September 2016

2.00 pm Time for Reflection
followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions
followed by Topical Questions (if selected)
followed by Scottish Government Business
followed by Business Motions
followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions
5.00 pm Decision Time
followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 7 September 2016

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions
2.00 pm Portfolio Questions
 Finance and the Constitution;
 Economy, Jobs and Fair Work
followed by Scottish Government Business
followed by Business Motions
followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions
5.00 pm Decision Time
followed by Members' Business

Thursday 8 September 2016

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions
11.40 am General Questions
12.00 pm First Minister's Questions
12.45 pm Members' Business
2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions
2.30 pm Scottish Government Business
followed by Business Motions
followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions
5.00 pm Decision Time

The motion was agreed to.

5. Variation of Standing Orders: Joe FitzPatrick, on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S5M-00630—That the Parliament agrees that, in relation to First Minister’s Questions on 8 September—

(i) in the first sentence of Rule 13.7.A1 “30 minutes” be replaced with “45 minutes”;

and

(ii) in Rule 13.6.2 “6” be replaced with “8”.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

6. Substitution on Committees: Joe FitzPatrick, on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S5M-0631—That the Parliament agrees the following nominated committee substitutes, as permitted under Rule 6.3A—

Scottish Greens

Economy, Jobs and Fair Work: Mark Ruskell

Education and Skills: Alison Johnstone

Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform: Andy Wightman

European and External Relations: Andy Wightman

Finance: John Finnie

Health and Sport: Ross Greer

Justice: Patrick Harvie

Local Government and Communities: Patrick Harvie

Rural Economy and Connectivity: Mark Ruskell

Social Security: Ross Greer

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments: John Finnie

The motion was agreed to (DT).

7. Membership of Committees: Joe FitzPatrick, on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S5M-0633—That the Parliament agrees the following revision to the composition and membership of the European and External Relations Committee—

Remit: Set out in Rule 6.8

Number of members: 9

Membership: Jackson Carlaw, Rachael Hamilton, Ross Greer, Joan McAlpine, Bruce Crawford, Richard Lochhead, Lewis Macdonald, Ash Denham, Tavish Scott.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

8. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 3, 5, 6 and 7 as noted above.

9. Commemorating the 21st Anniversary of the Srebrenica Genocide: The Parliament debated S5M-00007 in the name of Michael Russell—That the Parliament notes that the 21st anniversary of the genocide at Srebrenica in Bosnia, in which over 8,000 Bosnians, mostly men and including many young men, were murdered, takes place in July 2016; understands that the United Kingdom's Srebrenica Memorial Week organised by the charity, Remembering Srebrenica, will run from 10 to 17 July with the theme, 21: Coming of age – time to act; is mindful that many Bosnian young people did not have the chance to celebrate their coming of age as a result of the massacre and the war; considers that it has never been more important to engage with all young people and teach them that racial and religious hatred can lead to genocide, and hopes that the events of the commemoration will inspire people to challenge hatred of all types and work to create a more cohesive and tolerant society.

The meeting closed at 6.12 pm.

P E Grice
Clerk of the Parliament
29 June 2016

Appendix

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

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on the 29 June 2016 and are not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

**Section 70 Grant Payments In accordance with: Transport (Scotland) Act 2001
Section 70(4) Financial Year 2015-16 (SG/2016/82)**

laid under section 70 of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2001.

**The Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator Annual Report and Accounts for
the year ended 31 March 2016 (SG/2016/106)**

laid under section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000.

The Parole Board for Scotland Annual Report 2014-2015: (SG/2016/19)

laid under Schedule 1, paragraph 5 of the Prisons (Scotland) Act 1989 and
Schedule 2, paragraph 6 of the Prisoners and Criminal Proceedings
(Scotland) Act 1993.

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