



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Vol. 3, No. 98 Session 4

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 3 April 2014

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 Deputy First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon).

**3. Keep Justice Local:** The Parliament debated S4M-09454 in the name of Jim Hume—That the Parliament considers that sheriff courts have successfully dispensed justice in communities across South Scotland for hundreds of years; regrets what it considers the disappointing decision of the Scottish Court Service to close sheriff courts in Duns, Haddington, Kirkcudbright and Peebles; considers that this creates difficulties in accessing justice for witnesses and victims of crime; further considers that this creates a worrying precedent in removing civil service job opportunities from South Scotland communities where every job is at a premium; notes the continuing work of the feasibility study group currently considering the future of court provision in the Borders, whose members include the Scottish Court Service, Scottish Borders Council, Police Scotland and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, and notes calls for the group to engage in a full and transparent public consultation on the future of Jedburgh and Selkirk sheriff courts with a view to retaining access to justice in those towns.

**4. Defective and Dangerous Buildings (Recovery of Expenses) (Scotland) Bill:** David Stewart moved S4M-09391—That the Parliament agrees to the general

principles of the Defective and Dangerous Buildings (Recovery of Expenses) (Scotland) Bill.

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

**5. Developing Skills for Scotland's Digital Economy:** The Minister for Youth Employment (Angela Constance) moved S4M-09575—That the Parliament welcomes the publication of the Skills Investment Plan For Scotland's ICT & Digital Technologies sector and associated £6.6 million funding for digital skills; acknowledges the critical importance of digital skills across Scotland's economy; recognises that this is also a vibrant and growing sector in its own right, and welcomes a partnership approach with industry to meet future skills requirements, including increasing training, apprenticeship and employment opportunities for women and young people, who are currently underrepresented in the sector.

Jenny Marra moved amendment S4M-09575.1 to motion S4M-09575—

Insert at end—

“, and notes that the investment plan calls for adequate teaching capacity in schools, colleges and universities and to ensure that more college and university places are available to meet an increased demand”.

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

The motion, as amended, was then agreed to (DT).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—That the Parliament welcomes the publication of the Skills Investment Plan For Scotland's ICT & Digital Technologies sector and associated £6.6 million funding for digital skills; acknowledges the critical importance of digital skills across Scotland's economy; recognises that this is also a vibrant and growing sector in its own right; welcomes a partnership approach with industry to meet future skills requirements, including increasing training, apprenticeship and employment opportunities for women and young people, who are currently underrepresented in the sector, and notes that the investment plan calls for adequate teaching capacity in schools, colleges and universities and to ensure that more college and university places are available to meet an increased demand.

**6. Committee Membership:** Joe FitzPatrick, on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S4M-09567—That the Parliament agrees that—

Gordon MacDonald be appointed to replace Joan McAlpine as a member of the Education and Culture Committee;

Joan McAlpine be appointed to replace Christian Allard as a member of the Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee; and

Dave Thompson be appointed to replace Richard Lyle as a member of the Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**7. Substitution on Committees:** Joe FitzPatrick, on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S4M-09568—That the Parliament agrees that—

Maureen Watt be appointed to replace Gordon MacDonald as the Scottish National Party substitute on the Justice Committee;

Bob Doris be appointed to replace Joan McAlpine as the Scottish National Party substitute on the Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee;

Annabelle Ewing be appointed to replace Dave Thompson as the Scottish National Party substitute on the Finance Committee; and

Joan McAlpine be appointed to replace Marco Biagi as the Scottish National Party substitute on the Education and Culture Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**8. Decision Time:** The Parliament took decisions on items 4, 5, 6 and 7 as noted above.

The meeting closed at 5.03 pm.

**P E Grice**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
3 April 2014

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

**Subordinate Legislation**

**Affirmative instruments**

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 3 April 2014 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Single Use Carrier Bags Charge (Scotland) Regulations 2014 [draft]  
laid under section 96(4) of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

**Negative instruments**

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 3 April 2014 and is subject to the negative procedure—

Right to Interpretation and Translation in Criminal Proceedings (Scotland) Regulations 2014 (SSI 2014/95)  
laid under paragraph 2(2) of Schedule 2 to the European Communities Act 1972

**Other Documents**

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 3 April 2014 and is not subject to Parliamentary procedure—

The Single Use Carrier Bags Charge (Scotland) Regulations 2014 –  
Statement for the purposes of section 97(7) of the Climate Change (Scotland)  
Act 2009 (SG/2014/34)  
laid under section 97(7) of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009



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