



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**Vol. 1, No. 71 Session 4**

**Meeting of the Parliament**

**Thursday 10 May 2012**

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

The meeting opened at 9.15 am.

**1. Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Bill – Stage 1:** The Cabinet Secretary for Justice (Kenny MacAskill) moved S4M-02800—That the Parliament agrees to the general principles of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Bill.

After debate, the motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 93, Against 5, Abstentions 13).

**2. General Question Time:** Questions were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.

**3. Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Bill: Financial Resolution:** The Cabinet Secretary for Justice (Kenny MacAskill) moved S4M-02591—That the Parliament, for the purposes of any Act of the Scottish Parliament resulting from the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Bill, agrees to any expenditure of a kind referred to in paragraph 3(b) of Rule 9.12 of the Parliament's Standing Orders arising in consequence of the Act.

After debate, the motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 104, Against 5, Abstentions 0).

**4. First Minister's Question Time:** Questions were answered by the First Minister (Alex Salmond).

**5. Themed Question Time:** Questions on Justice and the Law Officers and Rural Affairs and the Environment were answered by Cabinet Secretaries, Ministers and Scottish Law Officers.

**6. Scottish Government Growth Strategy:** The Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Employment and Sustainable Growth (John Swinney) moved S4M-02808—That the Parliament supports the Scottish Government’s approach to accelerating recovery, supporting long-term sustainable economic growth and boosting employment, as set out in the *Government Economic Strategy*, including the focus on growth sectors and growth markets; notes the UK’s double-dip recession and, in light of this, recognises the alternative approach pursued by the Scottish Government and its calls for an urgent economic stimulus from the UK Government in the form of shovel-ready projects; notes the focus of the Scottish Government and its agencies, Scottish Development International, Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise in boosting international exports and securing international investment; recognises that growth sectors including food and drink, tourism, finance, life sciences, energy and low-carbon industries are performing well; welcomes the further actions that the Scottish Government is taking to ensure that Scotland continues to increase its international presence by pursuing opportunities in growing export markets and by continuing to attract substantial international inward investments.

Ken Macintosh moved amendment S4M-02808.3 to motion S4M-02808—

Leave out from "supports" to end and insert—

“believes that the UK Government’s austerity programme has failed, given that the UK economy has shrunk yet again despite repeated warnings to change course to avoid a double-dip recession; agrees that both the Scottish and UK governments need to pursue policies that will promote sustainable growth, secure employment and lead to a low-carbon economy, but fails to see how the SNP administration’s actions in cutting the housing budget by more than £100 million are consistent with pursuing shovel-ready projects; is dismayed that, in the face of 100,000 unemployed young people, the Scottish Government has seen fit to cut funding to colleges by more than 20%, following on from last year’s cut of more than 10%, and further calls for an urgent change of policy on procurement to prevent contracts such as the Forth Replacement Crossing being awarded to China, particularly at a time when Lanarkshire’s steel mills lie underused.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 31, Against 80, Abstentions 0).

Gavin Brown moved amendment S4M-02808.2 to motion S4M-02808—

Leave out from "supports" to end and insert—

“believes that the Scottish Government’s actions do not back up its claim to be prioritising long-term sustainable economic growth for Scotland; regrets the Scottish Government’s decision to cut college funding at a time of high youth unemployment; regrets the Scottish Government’s decision to cut spending on housing at a time when construction faces a very difficult time; believes that introducing a £95 million raid on Scottish retailers at a time when retail in Scotland is struggling is mistaken; calls on the Scottish Government to rethink its proposal to reduce substantially empty property rates relief, which will act as another brake on growth; welcomes measures taken by the UK Government, including the additional cut in corporation tax, which will mean that, by April 2014, the UK will have a 22% corporation tax

rate; welcomes the £20 billion National Loans Guarantee Scheme to get cheaper loans to businesses; welcomes the £1 billion youth contract, which will provide 40,000 work places in Scotland, and welcomes the recent announcement to locate the corporate headquarters of the Green Investment Bank in Edinburgh.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 13, Against 93, Abstentions 5).

The motion was then agreed to ((DT) by division: For 62, Against 49, Abstentions 0).

**7. Decision Time:** The Parliament took decisions on items 1, 3 and 6 as noted above.

**8. Centenary of the Dewar Report:** The Parliament debated S4M-02016 in the name of Dave Thompson—That the Parliament congratulates the Dewar 2012 Committee on organising a programme of events and a touring exhibition to commemorate and raise awareness of the centenary of the publication of the *Report of the Highlands and Islands Medical Service Committee*, the Dewar Report, by Inverness MP, Sir John Dewar; notes that the report shocked contemporary politicians with its portrayal of the inadequate provision of health services in the Highlands and Islands; recognises that the report resulted in the establishment of the Highlands and Islands Medical Service (HIMS), which it considers transformed the medical service in the Highlands with its commitment to high quality health care, its bottom-up structure and its careful consideration of the needs of rural health care, and considers that HIMS was the first model of state-funded healthcare in the world and provided the blueprint for the NHS in Scotland.

The meeting closed at 5.48 pm.

**P E Grice**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
10 May 2012

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