



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Vol. 3, No. 75 Session 4

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 4 February 2014

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Time for Reflection: Christine Duncan, Chief Executive Officer, Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol & Drugs led Time for Reflection.

2. Business Motion: Joe FitzPatrick, on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S4M-08938—That the Parliament agrees that, during stage 3 of the Marriage and Civil Partnership (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 and 2: 50 minutes

Groups 3 and 4: 1 hour 15 minutes

Groups 5 and 6: 1 hour 30 minutes.

The motion was agreed to.

3. Topical Questions: Questions were answered by a Minister.

4. Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Bill - Stage 3: The Bill was considered at Stage 3.

The following amendments were agreed to (without division): 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 31, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24.

The following amendments were disagreed to (by division)—

- 25 (For 21, Against 96, Abstentions 3)
- 26 (For 19, Against 95, Abstentions 7)
- 3 (For 21, Against 98, Abstentions 2)
- 1 (For 20, Against 98, Abstentions 3)
- 2 (For 27, Against 92, Abstentions 2)
- 27 (For 19, Against 100, Abstentions 1)
- 30 (For 14, Against 100, Abstentions 1)

Amendment 28 was moved and, with the agreement of the Parliament, withdrawn.

Amendment 29 was not moved.

The Deputy Presiding Officer extended the first time-limit under Rule 9.8.4A(c).

The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing (Alex Neil) moved a motion without notice under Rule 9.8.5A to move the second time limit by up to 30 minutes. The motion was agreed to. As a consequence, the third time limit was also moved by 30 minutes.

The Deputy Presiding Officer further extended the second time limit under Rule 9.8.4A(c).

The Presiding Officer altered the time of Decision Time by 30 minutes in consequence of the motion under Rule 9.8.5A being agreed to and notified members accordingly.

5. Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Bill: The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing (Alex Neil) moved S4M-08915—That the Parliament agrees that the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Bill be passed.

After debate, the motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 105, Against 18, Abstentions 0).

6. The Public Bodies (Abolition of the National Consumer Council and Transfer of the Office of Fair Trading's Functions in relation to Estate Agents etc) Order 2014: The Minister for Energy, Enterprise and Tourism (Fergus Ewing) moved S4M-08913—That the Parliament consents to the making of the Public Bodies (Abolition of the National Consumer Council and Transfer of the Office of Fair Trading's Functions in relation to Estate Agents etc) Order 2014, a draft of which was laid before the UK Parliament on 5 December 2013 and which makes provision that would be within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament if it were contained in an Act of that Parliament.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

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

8. Self-immolations in Tibet: The Parliament debated S4M-08842 in the name of Maureen Watt—That the Parliament notes with grave concern that at least 127 Tibetans have self-immolated, often fatally, since February 2009; understands that these actions are largely acts of protest against restrictions on religion, the Tibetan language, access to employment and the degradation of water resources and grazing lands; expresses concern at what it understands has been the state's attempts to prevent accurate reports of self-immolations reaching the media; condemns what it considers the criminalisation of family members and sometimes witnesses to the incidents; believes that 11 countries urged China to improve the human rights of Tibetans at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva on 22 October 2013, and commends the work of the Scottish Centre for Himalayan studies at the University of Aberdeen, the Grampian Tibet Support Group and other groups across Scotland in highlighting human rights and supporting cultural and educational links with Tibet and beyond.

The meeting closed at 7.05 pm.

P E Grice
Clerk of the Parliament
4 February 2014

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 4 February 2014—

European and External Relations Committee, 1st Report, 2014 (Session 4):
EU Engagement and Scrutiny of the Committees of the Scottish Parliament
on European Union policies 2014 (SP Paper 465)

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