



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 81 Session 4

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 24 February 2015

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Time for Reflection: Right Reverend John Chalmers, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland led Time for Reflection.

2. Topical Questions: Questions were answered by a Cabinet Secretary.

3. Legal Writings (Counterparts and Delivery) (Scotland) Bill - Stage 3: The Minister for Business, Energy and Tourism (Fergus Ewing) moved S4M-12381— That the Parliament agrees that the Legal Writings (Counterparts and Delivery) (Scotland) Bill be passed.

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

4. Building Scotland's Infrastructure for the Future: The Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities (Keith Brown) moved S4M-12382—That the Parliament recognises that infrastructure investment has an essential role in delivering sustainable economic growth by supporting jobs and enhancing Scotland's asset base; welcomes Scottish Government action to maintain levels of investment in transport, health, schools and housing and other projects and programmes through a range of funding mechanisms; supports the strategic, long-term approach set out in the Infrastructure Investment Plan; acknowledges the value being delivered through major projects including the Queensferry Crossing, the M8, M73, M74 improvements, the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route, A9 and A96 dualling programmes, the Borders rail link, the New South Glasgow Hospitals project and the Schools for the Future programme; recognises the further benefit that projects such

as high speed rail would bring and calls for all parties in the Parliament to make clear their support for Scotland being included in HS2; notes that the UK Government has cut the Scottish capital budget by around a quarter in real terms over the current spending review period; calls on the Chancellor to use the 2015 budget to boost capital investment; notes that real-terms increases in spending, limited to half a per cent each year, would see debt reduce as a share of GDP over four years, but would result in a further £180 billion investment in UK infrastructure, skills and education to further boost the economy compared with the UK Government's current spending plans, and believes that such an approach offers an alternative to the UK Government's failed austerity agenda.

Mary Fee moved amendment S4M-12382.3 to motion S4M-12382—

Leave out from "welcomes" to end and insert—

"supports the long-term approach set out in the Infrastructure Investment Plan but notes that, as of 15 August 2014, under a third of the projects remaining are currently in construction; notes that more needs to be done to ensure that new infrastructure projects are developed in a more strategic way, including ensuring that transport links are an integral consideration in the planning process; acknowledges that a number of promised projects have encountered delays, including the Edinburgh Glasgow Improvement Programme and the Borders railway project, or have been cancelled, such as the Glasgow Airport Rail Link, at great cost to the taxpayer; further notes that there is still further investment required to support user-focused development of the Scottish transport system, including dualling of the A9, electrification and dualling of the rail network, especially on rail lines north of Perth, and ensuring that bus regulation is developed to ensure the bus network meets the needs of passengers not commercial operators; recognises the further benefit that projects such as high speed rail and Crossrail would bring in speeding up journey times in Scotland, and calls for cross-party commitment to long-term projects such as these."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 34, Against 76, Abstentions 4).

Gavin Brown moved amendment S4M-12382.1 to motion S4M-12382—

Leave out from "welcomes" to end and insert—

"calls on the Scottish Government to explain the performance of the non-profit distribution pipeline since its creation, and asks the Scottish Government to publish an updated progress report for the Infrastructure Investment Plan as soon as possible."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 43, Against 67, Abstentions 4).

Willie Rennie moved amendment S4M-12382.2 to motion S4M-12382—

Leave out from "welcomes" to end and insert—

"welcomes the increasing amounts of capital funds made available to the Scottish Government by the UK Government and the additional borrowing powers agreed; notes that the recently published SNP fiscal plans increase debt and divert money from infrastructure to debt interest for a generation, and further notes with concern the review of the financing model underpinning the Scottish Futures Trust and the implications for Scottish infrastructure."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 13, Against 100, Abstentions 0).

The motion was then agreed to ((DT) by division: For 62, Against 17, Abstentions 34).

5. Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Bill – UK Legislation: The Minister for Business, Energy and Tourism (Fergus Ewing) moved S4M-12384— That the Parliament agrees that the relevant provisions of the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Bill, introduced in the House of Commons on 25 June 2014 and subject to amendments tabled in the House of Lords on 7 January 2015, relating to the recovery of public sector exit payments, so far as these matters fall within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament, should be considered by the UK Parliament.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

6. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 3, 4 and 5 as noted above.

7. Eating Disorders Awareness Week 2015: The Parliament debated S4M-12192 in the name of Dennis Robertson—That the Parliament observes that 23 to 27 February marks Eating Disorders Awareness Week 2015; notes that the most recent figures from NHS Information Services Division estimate that, in Scotland, around 2,000 patients in a single year sought treatment for an eating disorder; believes that the real figure is impossible to know due to the great number of people who do not seeking help from a GP; understands that eating disorders are recognised as mental health conditions; acknowledges what it considers the serious conditions that can be associated with such disorders, including other mental health conditions, osteoporosis, type 1 diabetes, anaemia, low blood pressure and organ failure; notes with sadness that people are still dying from these disorders; believes that there can still be imperfections in the communication between clinicians and families; commends the organisations in Aberdeenshire West and throughout the country that are playing a part in raising awareness and providing support to people with eating disorders, and welcomes what it considers the continued engagement and support from the Scottish Government.

8. Motion without Notice: Dennis Robertson moved without notice that, under Rule 8.14.3, the debate be extended by up to 30 minutes. The motion was agreed to.

The meeting closed at 6.24 pm.

P E Grice
Clerk of the Parliament
24 February 2015

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

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative instruments

The following draft affirmative instruments were withdrawn and subsequently re-laid before the Parliament on 23 February 2015—

General Medical Council (Fitness to Practise and Overarching Objective) and the Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care (References to Court) Order 2015 [draft]

laid under section 62(10) of the Health Act 1999.

Health Care and Associated Professions (Knowledge of English) Order 2015 [draft]

laid under section 62(10) of the Health Act 1999

Courts Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 (Consequential Provisions) Order 2015 [draft]

laid under section 133(2)(b) of the Courts Reform (Scotland) Act 2014

The timetable for consideration of this last draft SSI remains unchanged.

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 24 February 2015 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Scottish Landfill Tax (Exemption Certificates) Order 2015 [draft]

laid under section 41(2) of the Landfill Tax (Scotland) Act 2014

The following draft affirmative instrument was withdrawn and subsequently re-laid before the Parliament on 24 February 2015—

Single Use Carrier Bags Charge (Fixed Penalty Notices and Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2015 [draft]

laid under section 96(4) of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

The timetable for consideration of this draft SSI remains unchanged.

Negative instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 20 February 2015 and is subject to the negative procedure—

Land and Buildings Transaction Tax (Transitional Provisions) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2015 (SSI 2015/71)

laid under section 68(7) of the Land and Buildings Transaction Tax (Scotland) Act 2013

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 23 February 2015 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Health and Care Professions (Public Health Specialists and Miscellaneous Amendments) Order 2015 [draft]
laid under section 62(10) of the Health Act 1999.

Laid only instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 20 February 2015 and are not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Environmental Protection Act 1990 (Commencement No. 20) (Scotland) Order 2015 (SSI 2014/72 (C.14))
laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

Environment Act 1995 (Commencement No. 24) (Scotland) Order 2015 (SSI 2014/73 (C.15))
laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

Pollution Prevention and Control Act 1999 (Commencement No. 3) (Scotland) Order 2015 (SSI 2014/74 (C.16))
laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 23 February 2015 and are not subject to any parliamentary procedure

The Third Annual Report on the Operation of Section 66 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 (SG/2015/24)
laid under section 66 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

The Scottish Government's purchase of Glasgow Prestwick Airport – a report prepared for the Auditor General for Scotland (AGS/2015/1)
laid under the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 24 February 2015 and is not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Scottish Local Government Financial Statistics 2013-14 (SG/2015/12)
laid under section 118 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973

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