



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 4, No. 89 Session 4

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 12 March 2015

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 First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon).

3. The Importance of Libraries: The Parliament debated S4M-12195 in the name of Colin Beattie—That the Parliament notes that 7 February 2015 marks National Library Day, a UK-wide day of events that allows users to celebrate libraries and their staff; notes that the events cover a wide range of activities, including book swaps, treasure hunts and author visits; considers that National Library Day is of great importance in highlighting the role that libraries play in communities, including in Midlothian North and Musselburgh; considers that this role can include access to valuable information that would not otherwise be easily accessible to low-income families and households; notes that 3.6% of libraries in Scotland were closed between 2008 and 2013, compared with 7.9% in England and 11% and 11.5% in Wales and Northern Ireland respectively in the same period, and celebrates libraries for their significance in providing culture and education to the people of Scotland.

4. Local Government Finance (Scotland) Amendment Order 2015 [draft]: The Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Constitution and Economy (John Swinney) moved S4M-12623—That the Parliament recommends that the Local Government Finance (Scotland) Amendment Order 2015 [draft] be approved.

After debate, the motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 95, Against 5, Abstentions 0).

5. Mental Health (Scotland) Bill: The Minister for Sport, Health Improvement and Mental Health (Jamie Hepburn) moved S4M-12624—That the Parliament agrees to the general principles of the Mental Health (Scotland) Bill.

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

6. Mental Health (Scotland) Bill: Financial Resolution: The Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Constitution and Economy (John Swinney) moved S4M-12285—That the Parliament, for the purposes of any Act of the Scottish Parliament resulting from the Mental Health (Scotland) Bill, agrees to any expenditure of a kind referred to in Rule 9.12.3(b) of the Parliament's Standing Orders arising in consequence of the Act.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

7. Approval of SSI: Joe FitzPatrick, on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S4M-12498—That the Parliament agrees that the Land and Buildings Transaction Tax (Tax Rates and Tax Bands) (Scotland) Order 2015 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 89, Against 11, Abstentions 0).

8. Approval of SSI: Joe FitzPatrick, on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S4M-12499—That the Parliament agrees that the Land and Buildings Transaction Tax (Sub-sale Development Relief and Multiple Dwellings Relief) (Scotland) Order 2015 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

9. Approval of SSI: Joe FitzPatrick, on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S4M-12602—That the Parliament agrees that the National Bus Travel Concession Scheme for Older and Disabled Persons (Scotland) Amendment Order 2015 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

10. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 as noted above.

The meeting closed at 5.03 pm.

P E Grice
Clerk of the Parliament
12 March 2015

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

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative instruments

The following draft affirmative instrument was withdrawn on 12 March 2015—

Health and Care Professions (Public Health Specialists and Miscellaneous Amendments) Order 2015 [draft]

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 12 March 2015 and are not subject to any parliamentary procedure

NHS Pay Review Body Scotland Report 2015 (SG/2015/21)
laid before the Scottish Parliament at the request of a member of the Scottish Government and not under any laying power.

Report of the Interception of Communications Commissioner March 2015(SG/2015/28)
laid under 58(6) the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000.

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 11 March 2015—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 17th report 2015 (Session 4): Subordinate Legislation (SP Paper 684)

The following report is being published on 13 March 2015—

Justice Committee, 7th Report, 2015 (Session 4): Subordinate Legislation (SP Paper 692).

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