



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 3, No. 2, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 17 May 2023

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Constitution, External Affairs and Culture and then Justice and Home Affairs were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and a Minister.

2. Access to Bus Services: Alex Rowley moved S6M-08954—That the Parliament believes that reliable, accessible and affordable public transport is a key lifeline service in Scotland; believes that public investment in passenger transport should deliver value for money, environmental and social benefits; notes the recent bus fare rises across the country that are hitting during a cost of living crisis; further notes that these come on the back of route cancellations across much of Scotland that are isolating communities; believes that local authorities must be fully supported, empowered and resourced in their role regarding local public transport, and calls on the Scottish Government to support the introduction of a cap on bus fares across Scotland and set out what action it will take to stop the cuts to bus services on routes across Scotland.

The Minister for Transport (Kevin Stewart) moved amendment S6M-08954.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-08954 in the name of Alex Rowley (Access to Bus Services), leave out from “notes the recent” to end and insert “supports the vision outlined in the policy prospectus, Equality, Opportunity, Community, for a public transport system that is more accessible, available and affordable; notes the success of the concessionary bus travel schemes, which now offer free bus travel to 2.6 million people, with over two thirds of young people under

22 now holding the National Entitlement Card, making over 62 million journeys to date; agrees that bus services should serve the needs of local communities; notes the introduction of provisions under the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019, which will empower local authorities with the flexible tools that they need to respond to their own transport challenges, coupled with funding that allows local authorities to develop new ways of supporting bus development; recognises the key role of bus services in decarbonising transport and therefore welcomes the recent second tranche of zero emissions bus funding, and commends all of the staff involved in sustaining bus services over the last three years.”

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 63, Against 53, Abstentions 0).

Graham Simpson moved amendment S6M-08954.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-08954 in the name of Alex Rowley (Access to Bus Services), insert at end “; further calls on the Scottish Government to set out in detail how it plans to achieve its 20% car kilometre reduction target by 2030, and calls on the Scottish Government to publish its Fair Fares Review before summer recess 2023.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 53, Against 64, Abstentions 0).

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 64, Against 52, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament believes that reliable, accessible and affordable public transport is a key lifeline service in Scotland; believes that public investment in passenger transport should deliver value for money, environmental and social benefits; supports the vision outlined in the policy prospectus, Equality, Opportunity, Community, for a public transport system that is more accessible, available and affordable; notes the success of the concessionary bus travel schemes, which now offer free bus travel to 2.6 million people, with over two thirds of young people under 22 now holding the National Entitlement Card, making over 62 million journeys to date; agrees that bus services should serve the needs of local communities; notes the introduction of provisions under the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019, which will empower local authorities with the flexible tools that they need to respond to their own transport challenges, coupled with funding that allows local authorities to develop new ways of supporting bus development; recognises the key role of bus services in decarbonising transport and therefore welcomes the recent second tranche of zero emissions bus funding, and commends all of the staff involved in sustaining bus services over the last three years.

3. Tackling Scotland’s Mental Health Crisis: Jackie Baillie moved S6M-08955—That the Parliament acknowledges Mental Health Awareness Week and, in so doing, is deeply concerned by the mental health crisis in Scotland, with almost

30,000 children, young people and adults on waiting lists; notes that mental health-related calls to NHS24 were almost seven times higher in 2022 than in 2019 and that, tragically, 7,576 people have died from probable suicide in the last decade; considers that staff shortages are undermining efforts to improve care, with the Scottish Government failing to begin the recruitment of the 1,000 additional roles to support community mental health resilience; agrees that funding must be directed into frontline services and community-based services; supports the creation of a new referral system, so that no young person is rejected for treatment, the provision of a dedicated mental health worker in every GP practice and a mental health A&E department in every health board so that patients can be fast-tracked, and calls for mental health spending to be increased to at least 11% of the NHS budget.

The Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport (Maree Todd) moved amendment S6M-08955.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-08955 in the name of Jackie Baillie (Tackling Scotland's Mental Health Crisis), leave out from first “and” to end and insert “; understands that many people are struggling with their mental health and wellbeing, so welcomes this debate as an important opportunity to talk openly about issues such as anxiety; recognises the cumulative impact that the COVID-19 pandemic, the conflict in Ukraine, Brexit and the cost of living crisis have had on the mental wellbeing of children, young people and adults across the country; welcomes the fact that mental health spending has doubled in cash terms from £651 million in 2006-07 to £1.3 billion in 2021-22, and that, as a result of that investment, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and psychological therapies staffing has more than doubled; acknowledges that the Scottish Government has exceeded its commitment to fund over 800 additional mental health workers in settings such as A&E departments, GP practices, police custody suites and prisons; notes the aims to increase mental health staffing further, but recognises that supporting wider community resilience is as important as enhancing NHS capacity; welcomes, therefore, the fact that, between July and December 2022, more than 45,000 children, young people and their family members across Scotland accessed community-based mental health support; acknowledges the benefit of the 3,300 grants provided to grassroots community organisations through the Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund for adults in the past two years, with a further £15 million of investment confirmed for 2023-24; notes that, since its launch in 2017, the Distress Brief Intervention programme has provided support to over 40,000 people; recognises that every death lost to suicide is an enormous tragedy, which leaves devastating and long-lasting impacts on families, friends and communities; supports the aims of the work being driven forward by a wide range of partners as a result of the Scottish Government and COSLA's Suicide Prevention Strategy and Action Plan, published in 2022, and believes that these efforts will be enhanced by the publication in June 2023 of a new Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy, which will focus on further action required to support mental health and wellbeing.”

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 64, Against 53, Abstentions 0).

Sue Webber moved amendment S6M-08955.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-08955 in the name of Jackie Baillie (Tackling Scotland's Mental Health Crisis), insert at end “; raises the issue of increased levels of mental illness among NHS staff, with almost 75,000 staff members being absent due to anxiety, stress, depression or other mental illness between 2018 and 2022; notes that the outgoing Children and Young People's Commissioner said that the former First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, had failed children on a number of issues, including mental health, and reminds the Scottish Government that failing to solve the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) crisis today will lead to poor mental health outcomes for future generations, further compounding the issue.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 53, Against 64, Abstentions 0).

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 64, Against 53, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament acknowledges Mental Health Awareness Week; understands that many people are struggling with their mental health and wellbeing, so welcomes this debate as an important opportunity to talk openly about issues such as anxiety; recognises the cumulative impact that the COVID-19 pandemic, the conflict in Ukraine, Brexit and the cost of living crisis have had on the mental wellbeing of children, young people and adults across the country; welcomes the fact that mental health spending has doubled in cash terms from £651 million in 2006-07 to £1.3 billion in 2021-22, and that, as a result of that investment, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and psychological therapies staffing has more than doubled; acknowledges that the Scottish Government has exceeded its commitment to fund over 800 additional mental health workers in settings such as A&E departments, GP practices, police custody suites and prisons; notes the aims to increase mental health staffing further, but recognises that supporting wider community resilience is as important as enhancing NHS capacity; welcomes, therefore, the fact that, between July and December 2022, more than 45,000 children, young people and their family members across Scotland accessed community-based mental health support; acknowledges the benefit of the 3,300 grants provided to grassroots community organisations through the Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund for adults in the past two years, with a further £15 million of investment confirmed for 2023-24; notes that, since its launch in 2017, the Distress Brief Intervention programme has provided support to over 40,000 people; recognises that every death lost to suicide is an enormous tragedy, which leaves devastating and long-lasting impacts on families, friends and communities; supports the aims of the work being driven forward by a wide range of partners as a result of the Scottish Government and COSLA's Suicide Prevention Strategy and Action Plan, published in 2022, and believes that these efforts will be enhanced by the publication

in June 2023 of a new Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy, which will focus on further action required to support mental health and wellbeing.

4. Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee's 10th Report, 2023 (Session 6): Martin Whitfield, on behalf of the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee, moved S6M-08946—That the Parliament notes the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee's 10th Report, 2023 (Session 6), Complaint against Maggie Chapman MSP (SP Paper 366), and agrees to impose the sanction recommended in the report that Maggie Chapman MSP be excluded from the first meeting of the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee that is held after this motion is agreed.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 99, Against 11, Abstentions 1).

5. Business Programme: The Minister for Cabinet and Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-08986—That the Parliament —

(a) the following programme of —

Tuesday 23 May 2023

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Scottish Connections Framework

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 24 May 2023

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy; Finance and Parliamentary Business

followed by Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Approval of SSIs (if required)

5.10 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 25 May 2023

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

followed by Members' Business

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Net Zero and Just Transition

followed by Ministerial Statement: Medium Term Financial Strategy

followed by Rural Affairs and Islands Committee Debate: Future Agriculture Policy in Scotland

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 30 May 2023

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Scottish Government Business

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 31 May 2023

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands; NHS Recovery Health and Social Care

followed by Scottish Government Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Approval of SSIs (if required)

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 1 June 2023

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

followed by Members' Business

2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.30 pm Portfolio Questions: Social Justice

followed by Scottish Government Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

(b) that, for the purposes of Portfolio Questions in the week beginning 22 May 2023, in rule 13.7.3, after the word “except” the words “to the extent to which the Presiding Officer considers that the questions are on the same or similar subject matter or” are inserted.

The motion was agreed to.

6. Stage 2 Timetable: The Minister for Cabinet and Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-08987—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Patient Safety Commissioner for Scotland Bill at stage 2 be completed by 30 June 2023.

The motion was agreed to.

7. Membership of the Committee of the Regions UK Contact Group and the Regional Chamber of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe: The Minister for Cabinet and Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-09004—That the Parliament agrees to appoint Alasdair Allan as a full member and Neil Bibby as an alternate member of the Committee of the Regions UK Contact Group and to nominate Ben Macpherson as a full member and Maurice Golden as an alternate member of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

8. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Cabinet and Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-09005—That the Parliament agrees that the Environmental Standards Scotland air quality investigation - Scottish Government improvement plan (SG/2023/75) be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

9. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Cabinet and Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-09006—That the Parliament agrees that the Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles (Scotland) Act

2022 (Consequential Modifications, Saving and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2023 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

10. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Cabinet and Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-09007—That the Parliament agrees that the National Smart Ticketing Advisory Board (Gender Representation on Public Boards) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

11. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Cabinet and Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-09008—That the Parliament agrees that the First-tier Tribunal for Scotland (Allocation of Functions to the General Regulatory Chamber) Regulations 2023 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

12. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Cabinet and Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-09009—That the Parliament agrees that the First-tier Tribunal for Scotland General Regulatory Chamber and Upper Tribunal for Scotland (Composition and Rules of Procedure) (Miscellaneous Amendment) Regulations 2023 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

13. Designation of Lead Committee: The Minister for Cabinet and Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-09010—That the Parliament agrees that the Economy and Fair Work Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the Bankruptcy and Diligence (Scotland) Bill at stage 1.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

14. Designation of Lead Committee: The Minister for Cabinet and Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-09011—That the Parliament agrees that the Criminal Justice Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the legislative consent memorandum in relation to the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Bill (UK Legislation).

The motion was agreed to (DT).

15. Designation of Lead Committee: The Minister for Cabinet and Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-09012—That the Parliament agrees that the Criminal Justice Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the Victims, Witnesses, and Justice Reform (Scotland) Bill at stage 1.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

16. Committee Membership: The Minister for Cabinet and Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-09013—That the Parliament agrees that Keith Brown be appointed to replace Kenneth Gibson as a member of the Finance and Public Administration Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

17. Social Security (Residence Requirements) (Sudan) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 [draft]: The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice (Shirley-Anne Somerville) moved S6M-08907—That the Parliament recommends that the Social Security (Residence Requirements) (Sudan) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

18. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17 as noted above.

19. National Lyme Disease Awareness Month: The Parliament debated S6M-07769 in the name of Evelyn Tweed—That the Parliament acknowledges that May 2023 is National Lyme Disease Awareness Month; notes that Lyme disease is a bacterial infection spread to humans by infected ticks, which are tiny spider-like creatures found in woodland and moorland areas that feed on the blood of birds and mammals, including humans; understands that many people with early symptoms of Lyme disease develop a circular rash around the tick bite three to 30 days after being bitten, often described as looking like a bull's eye on a dart board, whilst some people may develop several rashes in different parts of their body, and around one in three people will not develop a rash; further understands that some people with Lyme disease also have flu-like symptoms, including tiredness, muscle and joint pain, headaches, a high temperature, chills and neck stiffness; notes the calls encouraging anyone who has been bitten by a tick and develops a rash or flu-like symptoms to speak to their GP and tell them that they have been bitten by a tick; further notes, however, that diagnosing Lyme disease is often difficult as many of the symptoms are similar to other conditions; acknowledges that NHS Scotland advises that Lyme disease is treatable, however, that without treatment, more serious and longer-term symptoms may develop, including pain and swelling in joints, nerve problems, memory problems, difficulty concentrating and heart problems; understands that there is currently no vaccine available and that the best way to prevent Lyme disease is to adopt simple measures when in the countryside or near wildlife, including tucking trousers into socks and wearing insect repellent, and notes the calls encouraging anybody who is concerned that they have contracted Lyme disease to contact their GP and for everyone to take precautions when in the countryside.

The meeting closed at 6.34 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament

17 May 2023

Appendix

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

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 17 May 2023 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Deposit and Return Scheme for Scotland Amendment Regulations 2023 [draft]
laid under section 96(4) of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

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