



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 2, No. 9, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 7 June 2022

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

- 1. Time for Reflection:** John Loughton BEM, CEO of Dare2Lead and Founder of Scrان Academy, led Time for Reflection.
- 2. Topical Questions:** Questions were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and a Minister.
- 3. Ministerial Statement:** The Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport (Michael Matheson) made a statement and answered questions on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Statistics 2020.
- 4. Scotland's National Parks:** The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity (Lorna Slater) moved S6M-04799—That the Parliament recognises the key role that national parks are playing in tackling the twin biodiversity and climate crises, and the important cultural, social and economic benefits that they bring to Scotland; welcomes the announcement by the Scottish Government that at least one new national park will be designated during the current parliamentary session; understands the need for an open and transparent evaluation process to identify the areas to be progressed to national park designation, and welcomes the start of stakeholder engagement to set the criteria for identifying the areas to be designated as new national parks.

Brian Whittle moved amendment S6M-04799.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-04799 in the name of Lorna Slater (Scotland's National Parks), insert at end “; notes the significant local support from communities involved in national park campaigns across Scotland, such as the Galloway National Park Association; acknowledges the concern expressed by many of these communities for what they feel is the unacceptably slow pace of the designation process; applauds the public demand for greater formal recognition of the value of Scotland's natural landscape and rural communities; believes that the interpretation of what constitutes a viable area for designation as a national park should be as broad as possible to ensure economic and environmental sustainability while recognising the diversity within Scotland's natural environment, and calls on the Scottish Government to explore other avenues to formally recognise and capitalise on Scotland's many outstanding areas of natural capital where national park status is not deemed appropriate.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 50, Against 66, Abstentions 0).

Colin Smyth moved amendment S6M-04799.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-04799 in the name of Lorna Slater (Scotland's National Parks), insert at end “; notes that there are over 3,500 national parks across the world; regrets that there have been just two national parks created in Scotland, the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park, in 2002, and the Cairngorms National Park, in 2003, since the Parliament passed the National Parks (Scotland) Act in 2000; praises the work of the Scottish Campaign for National Parks, which identified at least seven further potential sites in 2013, as well as community groups in Galloway and the Borders, and elsewhere, which continue to demonstrate clear demand for new national parks; recognises that, in addition to the designation of new national parks, it is vital that the national scenic areas and regional parks are reinvigorated to help tackle the climate, nature and biodiversity emergencies, and believes that the Scottish Government must pave the way for the opening of a number of new national parks across Scotland.”

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

The motion, as amended, was agreed to (DT).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament recognises the key role that national parks are playing in tackling the twin biodiversity and climate crises, and the important cultural, social and economic benefits that they bring to Scotland; welcomes the announcement by the Scottish Government that at least one new national park will be designated during the current parliamentary session; understands the need for an open and transparent evaluation process to identify the areas to be progressed to national park designation; welcomes the start of stakeholder engagement to set the criteria for identifying the areas to be designated as new national parks; notes that there are over 3,500 national parks across the world; regrets that there have been just two national parks created in Scotland, the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park, in 2002, and the

Cairngorms National Park, in 2003, since the Parliament passed the National Parks (Scotland) Act in 2000; praises the work of the Scottish Campaign for National Parks, which identified at least seven further potential sites in 2013, as well as community groups in Galloway and the Borders, and elsewhere, which continue to demonstrate clear demand for new national parks; recognises that, in addition to the designation of new national parks, it is vital that the national scenic areas and regional parks are reinvigorated to help tackle the climate, nature and biodiversity emergencies, and believes that the Scottish Government must pave the way for the opening of a number of new national parks across Scotland.

5. Statement of Policy: Donald Cameron moved S6M-04702—That the Parliament agrees that the statement laid by the Scottish Ministers on 10 May 2022 under Section 7(1) of the UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Continuity) (Scotland) Act 2021 should not be approved.

The motion was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 52, Against 67, Abstentions 0).

6. Revision to Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-04833—That the Parliament agrees to the following revisions to the programme of business for Thursday 9 June 2022—

delete

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Rural Affairs and Islands

and insert

2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.30 pm Portfolio Questions: Rural Affairs and Islands

and after

followed by Ministerial Statement: Scotland's Census 2022

insert

followed by Ministerial Statement: Scottish COVID-19 Inquiry

Stephen Kerr moved amendment S6M-04833.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-04833 in the name of George Adam (Revision to Business Programme), leave out from “delete” to “and after” and insert “after”.

The amendment was disagreed to (by division: For 52, Against 67, Abstentions 0).

The motion was agreed to.

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

8. Economic Value of Medical Charity Research in Scotland: The Parliament debated S6M-04013 in the name of Sue Webber—That the Parliament notes the publication of two reports by the Fraser of Allander Institute and British Heart Foundation Scotland about the role of medical research charities in Scotland’s medical research environment; welcomes the findings regarding the economic impact of medical research charity funding in Scotland, which, it understands, supported 7,475 jobs, £470 million in output and £320 million in Gross Value Added (GVA) in 2019; understands that funding from medical research charities is amongst the most effective of all sectors, reportedly supporting £1.33 million in GVA and 31 jobs for every £1 million invested; notes what it sees as the significant impact COVID-19 had on the ability of medical research charities to fund research, putting, it understands from the research, 575 jobs, £36 million in output and £25 million in GVA at risk in 2020 alone; understands that the British Heart Foundation currently invests almost £33 million on research in the Lothian region, and notes the call from British Heart Foundation Scotland for continued support for clinical research infrastructure and research careers to ensure the long-term health of the medical research environment and to amplify what it sees as the benefit of investment into medical research to the economy.

The meeting closed at 5.58 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
7 June 2022

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 6 June 2022—

Criminal Justice Committee, 6th Report, 2022 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation Considered by the Criminal Justice Committee on 1 June 2022 (SP Paper 196)

The following report will be published on 8 June 2022—

Finance and Public Administration Committee, 6th Report, 2022 (Session 6): Annual Report of the Finance and Public Administration Committee for 2021-22 (SP Paper 186)

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 6 June 2022 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Health (Tobacco, Nicotine etc. and Care) (Scotland) Act 2016 (Supplementary Provision) Regulations 2022 [draft]
laid under section 34(2) of the Health (Tobacco, Nicotine etc. and Care) (Scotland) Act 2016

Other Documents

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 6 June 2022 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Code of Practice: In connection with the use of disclosure information and with the functions of registered persons, 6 June 2022 Edition SG/2022/112 laid under Section 122 of the Police Act 1997

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 7 June 2022 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Scottish Greenhouse Gas Emissions 2020 SG/2022/94 laid under Section 33 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

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