



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 2, No. 90, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 23 March 2023

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

The meeting opened at 11.40 am.

- 1. General Questions:** Questions were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and Ministers.
- 2. First Minister's Questions:** Questions were answered by the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon).
- 3. Statement by the First Minister.** The First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon) made a statement.
- 4. Response to the First Minister's Statement:** The Parliament responded to the statement by the First Minister.
- 5. Supporting Taxi Drivers:** The Parliament debated S6M-07686 in the name of Pauline McNeill—That the Parliament recognises the contribution that taxi drivers make to the economy, connectivity and cultural life of Glasgow and the Greater Glasgow region; believes that taxi drivers provide a vital service to people who have mobility problems that make other forms of public transport unsuitable; understands that the service that taxi drivers provide does much to support what it sees as Glasgow's important night-time economy and hospitality industry, as well as provide the transport options which contribute to making Glasgow a UNESCO World City of Music; recognises the longstanding charity work carried out by Glasgow's taxi drivers through events such the Glasgow Taxi Outing To Troon; considers that recent years have brought unprecedented challenges to taxi drivers, with the COVID-19 pandemic reducing passenger numbers, and significant regulation changes from Glasgow City

Council mandating vehicle changes which, it believes, are unaffordable to many within the industry; notes the campaign from some taxi drivers for a fair implementation of new regulations, and congratulates the sector for all it contributes to the city.

6. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Education and Skills were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and Ministers.

7. Employment Support for Veterans and their Families: The Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Veterans (Keith Brown) moved S6M-08332—That the Parliament acknowledges the importance of Scotland's veterans and Armed Forces community and greatly values the significant contribution that it continues to make to Scotland; recognises the challenges that some veterans can face when transitioning out of the military, particularly in relation to employment; notes the work of the Scottish Government to address these issues and improve the employment prospects of veterans and their families; understands that poor mental and physical health may exacerbate barriers to employment for some veterans, and agrees that the Scottish Government should continue to work in partnership across the Scottish public, private and charitable sectors, and with other devolved administrations and the UK Government, to ensure that the veterans and Armed Forces community receives the best possible support and access to employability, healthcare and other services across Scotland.

Edward Mountain moved amendment S6M-08332.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-08332 in the name of Keith Brown (Employment Support for Veterans and their Families), insert at end “, and notes the importance of the close working relationships between Armed Forces bases and their respective local authorities, allowing for the potential development of improved social, health, educational and employment opportunities for service families and the communities that they live in.”

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

Paul Sweeney moved amendment S6M-08332.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-08332 in the name of Keith Brown (Employment Support for Veterans and their Families), insert at end “, and calls on the Scottish Government to enhance tailored support services available to veterans by scaling up examples of successful models, such as the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association and Glasgow City Council's Glasgow's Helping Heroes service, to become national standards.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 45, Against 65, Abstentions 0).

The motion was agreed to (DT).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament acknowledges the importance of Scotland's veterans and Armed Forces community and greatly values the significant contribution that it continues to make to Scotland; recognises the challenges that some veterans can face when transitioning out of the military, particularly in relation to employment; notes the work of the Scottish Government to address these issues and improve the employment prospects of veterans and their families; understands that poor mental and physical health may exacerbate barriers to employment for some veterans; agrees that the Scottish Government should continue to work in partnership across the Scottish public, private and charitable sectors, and with other devolved administrations and the UK Government, to ensure that the veterans and Armed Forces community receives the best possible support and access to employability, healthcare and other services across Scotland, and notes the importance of the close working relationships between Armed Forces bases and their respective local authorities, allowing for the potential development of improved social, health, educational and employment opportunities for service families and the communities that they live in.

8. Decision Time: The Parliament took a decision on item 7 as noted above.

The meeting closed at 5.05 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
23 March 2023

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 23 March 2023—

Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee, 4th Report, 2023
(Session 6): Subordinate Legislation under the Cost of Living (Tenant
Protection) (Scotland) Act 2022 considered by the Local Government,
Housing and Planning Committee on 21 March 2023 (SP Paper 347)

Subordinate Legislation

Negative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 23 March 2023 and is
subject to the negative procedure—

Tuberculosis (Scotland) Order 2023 (SSI 2023/93)
laid under section 28(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform
(Scotland) Act 2010

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 22 March 2023 and are
not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Fiscal Sustainability Report - March 2023 (SFC/2023/1) laid under section 5(3) of
the Scottish Fiscal Commission Act 2016

**Glasgow Kelvin College Annual Report & Financial Statements 2021-2022
(SG/2023/57)** laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability
(Scotland) Act 2000

**Moray College UHI Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended
31 July 2022 (SG/2023/59)** laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and
Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

**North East Scotland College Financial Statements for the year to 31 July 2022
(SG/2023/60)** laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability
(Scotland) Act 2000

**The North Highland College Report & Financial Statements for the year ended
31 July 2022 (SG/2023/61)** laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and
Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

**Scottish Public Services Ombudsman: Compendium of Case Reports for
March 2023 (SPSO/2023/03)** laid under Sections 15(1) and 15(1A) of the Scottish
Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002

University of the Highlands and Islands: Lews Castle College Annual Report and Accounts for the year to 31 July 2022 (SG/2023/58) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 23 March 2023 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Competition and Markets Authority Annual Plan 2023/24 (CMA/2023/01) laid under the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013, sch4 s13(2) (as amended by the United Kingdom Internal Market Act 2020, s40(3))

NHS Pension Scheme (Scotland) Annual Report & Accounts 2021/22 (SG/2023/69) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Scottish Teachers Scheme (Scotland) Annual Report & Accounts 2021/22 (SG/2023/68) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

University of the Highlands and Islands: Inverness College Report & Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2022 (SG/2023/65) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

University of the Highlands and Islands: Perth College Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2022 (SG/2023/62) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

West College Scotland Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2022 (SG/2023/63) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

West Lothian College Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2022 (SG/2023/64) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

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