



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 1, No. 110, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 12 May 2022

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. Supporting Striking University Staff:** The Parliament debated S6M-04187 in the name of Maggie Chapman—That the Parliament notes reports that staff are taking part in two sets of industrial action in two industrial disputes at a number of universities in the North East Scotland region, and across the country; understands that these are over pension cuts and falling pay, gender and ethnicity pay gaps, precarious employment practices, and unsafe workloads, known as the Four Fights; believes that cuts to pensions of an average of 35% are going ahead on the basis of an outdated valuation of the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) pension fund; understands that this valuation was made during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on the economy, and that the health of the fund has recovered significantly since then; appreciates that the trustee that manages the scheme has reportedly confirmed that a new valuation at this point could result in benefits being increased, rather than cut; notes with regret that university management has reportedly rejected proposals made by the Universities and College Union (UCU) that are deemed to be “viable and implementable” by the USS; understands that, in a recent survey of UK higher education staff, two thirds said that they were considering leaving the sector over cuts to pensions and attacks on pay and working conditions; notes the calls on the management of all educational institutions involved in both the

pensions and Four Fights disputes to engage constructively with staff and the unions to resolve the disputes, and notes the view that reversals of pension and pay cuts and urgent action against casualisation, gender and ethnicity inequalities in pay and promotions, and against unsafe workloads, are in the best interests of university staff, students, Scottish universities and Scotland as a whole.

4. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Education and Skills were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and a Minister.

5. Ministerial Statement: The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government (Shona Robison) made a statement and answered questions on Update on Cladding Remediation Programme.

6. Coronavirus (Recovery and Reform) (Scotland) Bill: The Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery (John Swinney) moved S6M-04310—That the Parliament agrees to the general principles of the Coronavirus (Recovery and Reform) (Scotland) Bill.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 65, Against 53, Abstentions 0).

7. Coronavirus (Recovery and Reform) (Scotland) Bill: Financial Resolution: The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy (Kate Forbes) moved S6M-04263—That the Parliament, for the purposes of any Act of the Scottish Parliament resulting from the Coronavirus (Recovery and Reform) (Scotland) Bill, agrees to—

(a) any expenditure of a kind referred to in Rule 9.12.3A of the Parliament's Standing Orders arising in consequence of the Act, and

(b) any charge or payment in relation to which Rule 9.12.4 of the Parliament's Standing Orders applies arising in consequence of the Act.

The motion was agreed to. (DT)

8. Appointments to the Scottish Fiscal Commission: The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy (Kate Forbes) moved S6M-04335—That the Parliament agrees with the recommendation of the Scottish Government and the Finance and Public Administration Committee that Professor Graeme Roy be appointed as Chair of the Scottish Fiscal Commission.

The motion was agreed to. (DT)

9. Appointments to the Scottish Fiscal Commission: The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy (Kate Forbes) moved S6M-04336—That the Parliament agrees with the recommendation of the Scottish Government and the Finance and Public Administration Committee that Dr Domenico Lombardi be appointed to the Scottish Fiscal Commission.

The motion was agreed to. (DT)

10. Appointments to the Scottish Fiscal Commission: The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy (Kate Forbes) moved S6M-04337—That the Parliament agrees with the recommendation of the Scottish Government and the Finance and Public Administration Committee that Professor Francis Breedon be reappointed to the Scottish Fiscal Commission.

The motion was agreed to. (DT)

11. Appointments to the Scottish Fiscal Commission: The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy (Kate Forbes) moved S6M-04338—That the Parliament agrees with the recommendation of the Scottish Government and the Finance and Public Administration Committee that Professor David Ulph be reappointed to the Scottish Fiscal Commission.

The motion was agreed to. (DT)

12. Stage 2 Timetable: Stephen Kerr, on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-04375—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Non-Domestic Rates (Coronavirus) (Scotland) Bill at stage 2 be completed by 31 May 2022.

The motion was agreed to.

13. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 as noted above.

14. Celebrating Nurses on International Nurses Day: The Parliament debated S6M-04202 in the name of Jackie Baillie —That the Parliament recognises that 12 May 2022 is International Nurses Day; understands that International Nurses Day is celebrated across the world every year on the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth; believes that this day is an opportunity to celebrate the contribution nursing staff make to people's lives and thank those working in health and social care across the country for all that they do; understands that the Royal College of Nursing is marking the day by asking staff and members of the public to share stories that demonstrate the best of nursing and, in Scotland, will launch the inaugural RCN Scotland Nurse of the Year Awards; acknowledges what it sees as the challenges and pressures nursing staff continue to be under as the country emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic; believes that nursing staff will play a critical role in the recovery from the pandemic, and notes the calls to urgently address the reported high levels of nursing vacancies in the Dumbarton constituency, and across the country, including by the implementation of the Health and Care (Staffing) (Scotland) Act 2019.

15. Motion without Notice: Jackie Baillie 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 6.10 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
12 May 2022

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

Committee Reports

The following report will be published on 13 May 2022—

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee, 7th Report, 2022 (Session 6):
Health and Wellbeing of Children and Young People (SP Paper 173)

Subordinate Legislation

Negative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 12 May 2022 and is subject to the negative procedure—

First-tier Tribunal for Scotland Social Security Chamber and Upper Tribunal for Scotland (Rules of Procedure) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2022 (SSI 2022/162)

laid under paragraph 5(2) of schedule 9 of the Tribunal (Scotland) Act 2014

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