



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 2, No. 48, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 24 November 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. The Economic Impact of Scotland's Renewable Energy Sector – 2022 Update: The Parliament debated S6M-06229 in the name of Paul McLennan—That the Parliament welcomes the publication of The Economic Impact of Scotland's Renewable Energy Sector – 2022 Update, by Scottish Renewables and the Fraser of Allander Institute, which it understands provides the latest economic output and job figures for Scotland's renewables energy industry; understands that the report demonstrates that Scotland's renewable energy industry and its supply chain supported more than 27,000 full time equivalent jobs, and that onshore wind supported the most employment across Scotland's economy from the renewable energy sector, with 10,120 full time equivalent roles, followed by offshore wind with 6,735 full-time equivalent roles, and hydropower with 4,395 full-time equivalent roles; highlights the report's findings that Scotland's renewable energy industry generated £5.6 billion of output in 2020; considers that the report found onshore wind had the largest estimated economic output, generating nearly £2.5 billion, with offshore wind and hydropower both supporting more than £1.1 billion output, and welcomes what it sees as the strength of Scotland's renewable energy industry and the energy security, economic, environmental and social benefits that it brings to communities across Scotland, including in East Lothian.

4. Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body Questions: Questions were answered by members of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body.

5. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Net Zero, Energy and Transport were answered by Ministers.

6. The National Drugs Mission: Taking Concrete Action to Tackle Stigma: The Minister for Drugs Policy (Angela Constance) moved S6M-06924—That the Parliament acknowledges that stigma prevents people from seeking the help and support that they need and that using language that de-humanises people is harmful; recognises that tackling stigma is everyone’s responsibility and that the existence of stigma diminishes all communities as it creates unreasonable and unnecessary barriers for people in all aspects of their lives; agrees that problem drug use is a health issue and that people who experience it deserve parity of treatment as with any other long-term, life-affecting health condition; believes that every individual’s experience of recovery is unique and should not be stigmatised, and that people with experience of problem drug use and their families should be treated with dignity, respect and equity; recognises that treating substance dependence as if it were included as part of the protected characteristic of disability, would contribute to a more fair and just society; supports strengthening the meaningful involvement of people with experience of problem drug use in their local communities and wider society in the development and implementation of policy; calls on all MSPs to lead by example in challenging the stigma of people who use drugs and their families, and welcomes the planned publication by the Scottish Government of a Stigma Action Plan, which should embed these principles and drive action on the stated commitments.

Sue Webber moved amendment S6M-06924.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-06924 in the name of Angela Constance (The National Drugs Mission: Taking Concrete Action to Tackle Stigma), leave out from “calls” to end and insert “notes that FAVOR UK’s report, One Year Report - Blueprint to Save Lives, published on 21 November 2022, highlights significant challenges faced by those affected by a drug addiction, including many individuals being required to wait for years to access vital treatment; is concerned that, despite multiple action plans, Scotland still has the highest drug death rate in Europe, and 3.7 times higher than the UK as a whole; expresses concern that stigma is especially problematic amongst those with hepatitis C, with 90% of new hepatitis C infections occurring through sharing contaminated injecting equipment; urges the Scottish Government to implement the recommendations of the Scottish Drug Deaths Taskforce, particularly in regards to the “no wrong door” approach, which will stop people struggling with drug use being turned away from service providers, and calls on the Scottish Government to back the Proposed Right to Addiction Recovery (Scotland) Bill, which would enshrine in law a right to treatment, so that all those affected by addiction in Scotland can get the support they need.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 28, Against 67, Abstentions 23).

Claire Baker moved amendment S6M-06924.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-06924 in the name of Angela Constance (The National Drugs Mission: Taking Concrete Action to Tackle Stigma), insert at end “; recognises that drug deaths and wider drug-related harms disproportionately impact on the most deprived communities; believes that tackling substance use requires policies that address poverty, deprivation and Scotland’s wider health inequalities; agrees that people with an addiction should be able to access the full range of drug treatment and mental health services wherever they live; regrets the delays in fully implementing the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) standards, and agrees that the standards have an essential role to play in tackling the drug deaths crisis and wider drug-related harms; acknowledges that there is a need to know not only the number of people who have tragically lost their lives to a drug overdose, but also due to health conditions caused by long-term problematic drug use, including, for example, cardiovascular disease, end-stage liver disease, HIV or hepatitis C, and believes that such information is essential to inform policy, direct resources and save lives.”

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

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 90, Against 28, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament acknowledges that stigma prevents people from seeking the help and support that they need and that using language that dehumanises people is harmful; recognises that tackling stigma is everyone’s responsibility and that the existence of stigma diminishes all communities as it creates unreasonable and unnecessary barriers for people in all aspects of their lives; agrees that problem drug use is a health issue and that people who experience it deserve parity of treatment as with any other long-term, life-affecting health condition; believes that every individual’s experience of recovery is unique and should not be stigmatised, and that people with experience of problem drug use and their families should be treated with dignity, respect and equity; recognises that treating substance dependence as if it were included as part of the protected characteristic of disability, would contribute to a more fair and just society; supports strengthening the meaningful involvement of people with experience of problem drug use in their local communities and wider society in the development and implementation of policy; calls on all MSPs to lead by example in challenging the stigma of people who use drugs and their families; welcomes the planned publication by the Scottish Government of a Stigma Action Plan, which should embed these principles and drive action on the stated commitments; recognises that drug deaths and wider drug-related harms disproportionately impact on the most deprived communities; believes that tackling substance use requires policies that address poverty, deprivation and Scotland’s wider health inequalities; agrees that people with an addiction should be able to access the full range of

drug treatment and mental health services wherever they live; regrets the delays in fully implementing the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) standards, and agrees that the standards have an essential role to play in tackling the drug deaths crisis and wider drug-related harms; acknowledges that there is a need to know not only the number of people who have tragically lost their lives to a drug overdose, but also due to health conditions caused by long-term problematic drug use, including, for example, cardiovascular disease, end-stage liver disease, HIV or hepatitis C, and believes that such information is essential to inform policy, direct resources and save lives.

- 7. Decision Time:** The Parliament took a decision on item 6 as noted above.

The meeting closed at 5.07 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
24 November 2022

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

Subordinate Legislation

Made Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 24 November 2022 and is subject to the made affirmative procedure—

Common Organisation of the Markets in Agricultural Products (Poultrymeat) (Miscellaneous Temporary Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2022 (SSI 2022/352)

laid under Article 229 of Commission Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013

Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 24 November 2022 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Bankruptcy and Debt Arrangement Scheme (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 [draft]

laid under section 225(4) of the Bankruptcy (Scotland) Act 2016

Negative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 24 November 2022 and is subject to the negative procedure—

Building (Scotland) Amendment (No. 2) Regulations 2022 (SSI 2022/349)

laid under section 54(5) of the Building (Scotland) Act 2003

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 24 November 2022 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Crown Estate Scotland Annual Report and Accounts to 31 March 2022

(SG/2022/245) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

HM Inspectorate of Prosecution in Scotland Annual Report 2021-2022

(SG/2022/250) laid under Section 79(8) of the Criminal Proceedings etc. (Reform) (Scotland) Act 2007

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