



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 2, No. 29, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 28 September 2022

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Covid-19 Recovery and Parliamentary Business and then on Finance and the Economy were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and Ministers.

2. Scottish Government Handling of Ferry Contracts: Graham Simpson moved S6M-06071—That the Parliament welcomes the long-awaited publication of the Project Neptune report on Scotland's ferries; believes that the report sets out viable alternatives to the current structure, which is not delivering for islanders; calls on the Scottish Government to set out an urgent plan for fleet procurement, manufacturing and operations; notes that the CalMac fleet has become increasingly beset by technical issues and cancellations and that these technical issues are leading to increasingly higher repair costs; further notes that island communities, who have faced significant disruption already, are concerned that a lack of resilience in the fleet could cause further disruption this winter; expresses disappointment that, under latest estimates, vessels 801 and 802 will not be completed until May and December 2023, despite originally being due for completion in May and July 2018, and calls for a public inquiry into the matter.

The Minister for Transport (Jenny Gilruth) moved amendment S6M-06071.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-06071 in the name of Graham Simpson (Scottish Government Handling of Ferry Contracts), leave out from “long-awaited” to end and insert “publication of the Project Neptune report on the governance of Scotland's ferries; notes that ministers are engaging with affected

communities, staff and all stakeholders on the options for reform; recognises that over £2 billion has been invested in the support of lifeline ferry services since 2007; welcomes the commitment to publish and consult on a long-term vessel and port investment plan as part of the Islands Connectivity Plan; recognises the concerns of island communities, and that ministers continue to work closely with them during periods of disruption; agrees that ensuring accurate reporting is key to avoiding unnecessary impacts on those economies, and notes the ongoing work to deliver the vessels under construction at Ferguson Marine, the positive relations between management and unions, and the protection of hundreds of jobs at the yard, including supporting over 50 apprentices, along with many more jobs in the supply chain.”

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 65, Against 52, Abstentions 0).

Neil Bibby moved amendment S6M-06071.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-06071 in the name of Graham Simpson (Scottish Government Handling of Ferry Contracts), insert at end “; welcomes the commitment to not unbundle the ferry network, and to maintain the Clyde and Hebrides network under public control; believes that the unreliability and long-term unsustainability issues are contributing to the growing depopulation of the Scottish islands, and further believes that the future procurement of ferries must be used to support Scottish shipbuilding jobs and help restore the reputation of the Ferguson Marine yard.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 23, Against 93, Abstentions 0).

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

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament welcomes the publication of the Project Neptune report on the governance of Scotland's ferries; notes that ministers are engaging with affected communities, staff and all stakeholders on the options for reform; recognises that over £2 billion has been invested in the support of lifeline ferry services since 2007; welcomes the commitment to publish and consult on a long-term vessel and port investment plan as part of the Islands Connectivity Plan; recognises the concerns of island communities, and that ministers continue to work closely with them during periods of disruption; agrees that ensuring accurate reporting is key to avoiding unnecessary impacts on those economies, and notes the ongoing work to deliver the vessels under construction at Ferguson Marine, the positive relations between management and unions, and the protection of hundreds of jobs at the yard, including supporting over 50 apprentices, along with many more jobs in the supply chain.

3. Addressing NHS Waiting Times: Sandesh Gulhane moved S6M-06073— That the Parliament is concerned by the length and scale of NHS waiting times; notes that A&E, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), cancer and routine

treatment waiting times are well short of where they need to be; recognises that the root cause of this problem is a lack of beds in NHS hospitals; regrets, therefore, that the Scottish Government is focussed more on structural reform than building greater capacity into the social care system; notes that the NHS Recovery Plan is failing to have a demonstrably positive impact on waiting times, and calls, therefore, on the Scottish Government to rewrite its NHS Recovery Plan ahead of this winter.

The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care (Humza Yousaf) moved amendment S6M-06073.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-06073 in the name of Sandesh Gulhane (Addressing NHS Waiting Times), leave out from “is concerned” to end and insert “recognises the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on health services and thanks Scotland's frontline health and care staff for continuing to deliver high-quality care in spite of pressures associated with the ongoing pandemic; understands that these pressures are being experienced in health services across the UK and beyond; notes that, in 60 days, the number of people waiting longer than two years for an outpatient appointment was reduced by almost a quarter and that most specialisms have no waits of this length; welcomes that, since the start of the pandemic, NHS staffing is up by almost 9%; notes that child and adolescent mental health services began treatment of 5,200 children in the most recent quarter, the highest number ever recorded for the second quarter in a row; commends the dedication of Hospital at Home staff, whose work has avoided or saved bed days equivalent to that of a large district general hospital, including increased capacity for Outpatient Intravenous Antimicrobial Treatments, remote monitoring for COVID, and Respiratory Rapid Response services, which has already saved 45,000 hospital bed days in 2022; regrets the impact that Brexit and the UK Government's anti-immigration rhetoric have had on recruitment in care services, and welcomes that over £1.6 billion of Scottish Government investment is being provided for social care and integration in 2022, and that, by the end of this parliamentary session, investment will increase by at least £840 million to improve services through the creation of the National Care Service.”

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 65, Against 52, Abstentions 0). As a result, amendment S6M-06073.1 was pre-empted.

Jackie Baillie moved amendment S6M-06073.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-06073 in the name of Sandesh Gulhane (Addressing NHS Waiting Times), insert at end “, deliver a real cancer catch-up plan, and invest in social care to tackle delayed discharge.”

Alex Cole-Hamilton moved amendment S6M-06073.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-06073 in the name of Sandesh Gulhane (Addressing NHS Waiting Times), insert at end “; notes that the increasing problems with NHS staff and recruitment, with 6,010 nursing and midwifery vacancies alone, will have a direct impact on waiting times; believes that staff

should not face unsafe staffing levels on any shift; deeply regrets the impact of waiting times on both patients and staff, and calls on the Scottish Government to set up an urgent inquiry into avoidable deaths linked to the emergency care crisis, following estimates from the Royal College of Emergency Medicine that long waits have contributed to hundreds of avoidable deaths in 2022.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 51, Against 65, Abstentions 0).

The motion, as amended, was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 65, Against 52, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament recognises the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on health services and thanks Scotland's frontline health and care staff for continuing to deliver high-quality care in spite of pressures associated with the ongoing pandemic; understands that these pressures are being experienced in health services across the UK and beyond; notes that, in 60 days, the number of people waiting longer than two years for an outpatient appointment was reduced by almost a quarter and that most specialisms have no waits of this length; welcomes that, since the start of the pandemic, NHS staffing is up by almost 9%; notes that child and adolescent mental health services began treatment of 5,200 children in the most recent quarter, the highest number ever recorded for the second quarter in a row; commends the dedication of Hospital at Home staff, whose work has avoided or saved bed days equivalent to that of a large district general hospital, including increased capacity for Outpatient Intravenous Antimicrobial Treatments, remote monitoring for COVID, and Respiratory Rapid Response services, which has already saved 45,000 hospital bed days in 2022; regrets the impact that Brexit and the UK Government's anti-immigration rhetoric have had on recruitment in care services, and welcomes that over £1.6 billion of Scottish Government investment is being provided for social care and integration in 2022, and that, by the end of this parliamentary session, investment will increase by at least £840 million to improve services through the creation of the National Care Service.

4. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-06087—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 4 October 2022

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Cost of Living (Protection of Tenants) (Scotland) Bill: Emergency Bill motion

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Cost of Living (Protection of Tenants) (Scotland) Bill

followed by Financial Resolution: Cost of Living (Protection of Tenants) (Scotland) Bill (if required)

followed by Ministerial Statement: Health and Care Recovery and Winter Planning

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

6.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 5 October 2022

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Rural Affairs and Islands; Health and Social Care

followed by Committee of the Whole Parliament – Stage 2 Proceedings: Cost of Living (Protection of Tenants) (Scotland) Bill

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Approval of SSIs (if required)

6.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 6 October 2022

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: Social Justice, Housing and Local Government

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Cost of Living (Protection of Tenants) (Scotland) Bill

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

6.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 25 October 2022

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Hunting with Dogs (Scotland) Bill

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 26 October 2022

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Constitution, External Affairs and Culture; Justice and Veterans

followed by Scottish Labour 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 27 October 2022

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: Education and Skills

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill

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 3 October 2022, 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.

5. Stage 1 Extension: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-06088—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Hunting with Dogs (Scotland) Bill at stage 1 be extended to 28 October 2022.

The motion was agreed to.

6. Motion without Notice: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam) moved without notice that, under Rule 11.2.5, decisions on items 2 and 3 would be taken at a future meeting of the Parliament.

7. Congratulating Scottish Universities on Research Excellence Framework 2021 Results: The Parliament debated S6M-04407 in the name of Pam Gosal—That the Parliament acknowledges the results of the 2021 Research Excellence Framework, which it understands states that 84.86% of the research submitted by Scottish universities is considered “world-leading” or “internationally excellent” in its quality; considers that Scotland is a world-leading research nation; recognises what it sees as the contribution that this research has made to social and economic challenges faced in the UK, including in the West Scotland region, and abroad; welcomes the reported growth and investment arising from this world-class research, and considers that Scotland should capitalise on what it sees as the massive potential created by Scottish universities to improve sustainable economic growth.

The meeting closed at 5.59 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
28 September 2022

Appendix

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

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 28 September 2022—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 47th Report, 2022 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 27 September 2022 (SP Paper 229)

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee, 11th Report, 2022 (Session 6): Tackling health inequalities in Scotland (SP Paper 230)

Legislative Consent Memorandum

The following memorandum was lodged on 28 September 2022—

Michael Matheson, Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport: Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Energy Bill (UK Parliament legislation) (LCM-S6-26)

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