



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 2, No. 53, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 7 December 2022

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

- 1. Portfolio Questions:** Questions on Constitution, External Affairs and Culture and then on Justice and Veterans were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and a Minister.
- 2. Urgent Question:** An urgent question, to ask the Scottish Government what its response is to the Climate Change Committee's reports Progress in reducing emissions in Scotland: 2022 Report to Parliament and Scottish Emission Targets - first five-yearly review, was answered by the Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport (Michael Matheson).
- 3. The State of the Scottish Education System:** Stephen Kerr moved S6M-07111—That the Parliament believes that access to a first-class education is the right of all children; notes that teachers have been neglected and let down by the Scottish Government, that young people, from early years education to further and higher education, have suffered from failures in government, and that the people of Scotland have been let down by the undermining of an education system of which they were once proud; believes that, through badly-drawn reform, inaction and a failure to innovate, the Scottish Government has fundamentally undermined the education system in Scotland, meaning that action is required now to address these problems, and calls on the Scottish Government to urgently outline a new education plan with a focus on respect for Scotland's teachers, opportunities for its young people and growth for the whole sector, so that education in Scotland can once again be the best gift for its children.

The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills (Shirley-Anne Somerville) moved amendment S6M-07111.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-07111 in the name of Stephen Kerr (The State of the Scottish Education System), leave out from “that access” to end and insert “that all children, young people and adult learners have the right to a first-class education; recognises that there is much to be proud of and to celebrate in Scottish education; commends the hard work of all staff and teaching professionals in Scotland's schools, colleges, universities and early learning and childcare centres, and welcomes the comprehensive programme of reform underway in Scottish education, which includes the National Discussion to shape the future vision for Scottish education, the independent review of qualifications and assessment, the establishment of a new independent inspectorate, a new national agency and a new qualifications body, plans to expand Scotland's early learning and childcare (ELC) offer, the introduction of a new shared inspection framework for early learning and childcare (ELC), the development of purpose and principles of post-school education, research and skills, and the independent review of the skills delivery landscape.”

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 66, Against 54, Abstentions 0).

Michael Marra moved amendment S6M-07111.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-07111 in the name of Stephen Kerr (The State of the Scottish Education System), insert at end “; recognises that strike action by teachers continues across Scotland; calls on the Scottish Government to ensure that negotiations urgently progress to ensure a fair pay deal and minimal disruption to pupils' learning; notes the widespread disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic to education; calls on the Scottish Government to urgently carry out a full assessment of the impact of the pandemic so that pupils, parents and teachers can receive the support that they need; notes the increased absence rate of pupils from Scottish schools, and calls for an action plan to aid re-engagement; notes the decline in the number of STEM teachers in secondary schools, and asks for an update from the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills on what actions are being taken to reverse this decline, and believes that the Scottish Government should reform Scottish education by implementing the recommendations of the Muir report.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 54, Against 67, Abstentions 0).

The motion, as amended, was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 68, Against 53, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament believes that all children, young people and adult learners have the right to a first-class education; recognises that there is much to be proud of and to celebrate in Scottish education; commends the hard work of all staff and teaching professionals in Scotland's schools, colleges, universities and early learning and childcare centres, and welcomes the comprehensive programme of reform underway in Scottish education, which includes the National Discussion to shape the future vision for Scottish education, the independent review of qualifications and assessment, the establishment of a new independent inspectorate, a new national agency and a new qualifications body, plans to expand Scotland's early learning and childcare (ELC) offer, the introduction of a new shared inspection framework for early learning and childcare (ELC), the development of purpose and principles of post-school education, research and skills, and the independent review of the skills delivery landscape.

4. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-07120—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 13 December 2022

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Ministerial Statement: Medication Assisted Treatment and Workforce Update

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Moveable Transactions (Scotland) Bill

followed by Financial Resolution: Moveable Transactions (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 14 December 2022

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Covid Recovery and Parliamentary Business; Finance and Economy

followed by Health, Social Care and Sport Committee Debate: Health Inequalities

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Approval of SSIs (if required)

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 15 December 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: Net Zero, Energy and Transport

followed by Ministerial Statement: Scottish Budget 2023-24

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Asset Transfers and Community Empowerment - Five Years On

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 20 December 2022

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

8.00 pm Decision Time

Wednesday 21 December 2022

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Rural Affairs and Islands; Health and Social Care; Social Justice, Housing and Local Government

followed by Stage 3 Debate: Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Approval of SSIs (if required)

5.15 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 22 December 2022

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

12.45 pm Decision Time

(b) that, for the purposes of Portfolio Questions in the week beginning 12 December 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.

Alexander Burnett moved amendment S6M-07120.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-07120 in the name of George Adam (Business Programme), leave out from "Tuesday 20 December 2022" to "12.45 pm Decision Time".

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to (by division: For 30, Against 91 Abstentions 0).

The motion was agreed to.

5. Stage 1 Timetable: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-07121—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Bail and Release from Custody (Scotland) Bill at stage 1 be completed by 17 March 2023.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

6. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-07122—That the Parliament agrees that the International Organisations (Immunities and Privileges) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2022 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

7. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-07123—That the Parliament agrees that the Police Act 1997 (Offences in Schedules 8A and 8B) Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2022 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

8. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-07124—That the Parliament agrees that the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exclusions and Exceptions) (Scotland) Amendment (No. 2) Order 2022 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

9. Suspension and Variation to Standing Orders: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-07155— That the Parliament agrees that, for the purposes of meetings of the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee during December 2022, Rule 12.2ZA be suspended and replaced with—

1. Where a member who—

(a) has made a complaint about any of the matters set out in rule 6.4.1(b),

(b) is the subject of such a complaint, or

(c) has given evidence in the course of the Ethical Standards Commissioner's investigations into such a complaint,

is a member of (or a committee substitute for) the committee considering this complaint, or any related question of sanctions or withdrawal of a member's rights and privileges, that member shall not participate in that capacity in any such consideration by that committee.

10. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 3, 5, 6, 7 and 9 as noted above.

11. #IWill Week 2022: The Parliament debated S6M-06631 in the name of Jackie Dunbar—That the Parliament recognises #IWill Week 2022, which takes place from 21 to 25 November; understands that the #IWill movement is part of a UK-wide initiative, which aims to bring together the wealth of youth volunteering, fundraising, campaigning and mentoring that young people are doing to benefit others, the environment and the causes that they believe in; further understands that Youthlink, the charity behind this movement, looks to put a spotlight on the issues that it believes are affecting young people, notably with its annual conference on 8 November 2022 being focused on youth work and poverty, and wishes #IWillScotland all the best for its upcoming week, bringing awareness to the young people actively making a change.

The meeting closed at 6.12 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
7 December 2022

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 7 December 2022—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 66th Report, 2022 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation Considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 6 December 2022 (SP Paper 276)

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 7 December 2022 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Climate Change Committee Scottish Emissions Targets - first five-yearly review (SG/2022/294) laid at the request of a member of the Scottish Government and not under any laying power.

Climate Change Committee Progress in reducing emissions in Scotland 2022 Report to Parliament (SG/2022/293) laid at the request of a member of the Scottish Government and not under any laying power

The Electoral Commission - Performance standards for Returning Officers, December 2022 (SG/2022/262) laid under Section 9AA(2)(b) of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000

NHS Orkney Annual Report and Accounts for year ended 31 March 2022 (SG/2022/279) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Scottish Legal Complaints Commission Annual Report 2021-2022 (SG/2022/239) laid under section 16(4) of Schedule 1 to the Legal Profession and Legal Aid (Scotland) Act 2007

Scottish Legal Complaints Commission Annual Report and Financial Statements Year ended 30 June 2022 (SG/2022/240) laid under paragraph 15(2) of schedule 1 to the Legal Profession and Legal Aid (Scotland) Act 2007 and section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

The Scottish Road Works Commissioner Annual Report and Accounts 2021-22 (SG/2022/113) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Shetland NHS Board Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (SG/2022/280) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Tayside Health Board Annual Report and Accounts for year ended 31 March 2022 (SG/2022/281) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

National Waiting Times Centre Board (also known as the NHS Golden Jubilee) Annual Report and Accounts for year ended 31 March 2022 (SG/2022/283) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

NHS Western Isles Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (SG/2022/282) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

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