



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 2, No. 6, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 26 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 Deputy First Minister (John Swinney).
- 3. Marking the 40th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Falkland Islands:** The Parliament debated S6M-04082 in the name of Sharon Dowey—That the Parliament marks the 40th anniversary of the liberation of the Falkland Islands in 1982; notes that the anniversary is recognised as a national holiday in the Falklands; recognises all the brave sacrifices made by the British military personnel, their families and the British public throughout this 74-day war; celebrates what it sees as the unity demonstrated by UK citizens in a time of great need to restore freedom for the people in the Falklands; highlights what it considers are the strong cultural links between Scotland and the Falkland community and recognises the significant contribution that members of the Armed Forces from Scotland made to liberating the Islands in 1982; commemorates the lives of the three civilian Falkland Islanders and 255 British military personnel that were sadly lost, as well as the hundreds that were injured; notes the significant role that many civilians reportedly played in supporting the Task Force on its campaign in the South Atlantic; further notes the support that it believes the UK Government continues to provide to the Falklands' right to self-determination and their wish to remain a UK Overseas Territory; expresses its support for veterans on both sides and Islanders who it understands still struggle with mental and physical scars as a consequence of the events that they have

experienced or witnessed; acknowledges the year-long programme of different honouring and celebratory events across the world that aim to commemorate the sacrifices made in 1982; values the Falkland Islands as what it considers a forward-looking community with a strong sense of culture and heritage, and celebrates what it sees as the great progress made in the Falkland Islands since 1982.

4. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Constitution, External Affairs and Culture were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and a Minister.

5. Ministerial Statement: The Minister for Drugs Policy (Angela Constance) made a statement and answered questions on Accountability for Delivering the National Mission to Reduce Drug Deaths and Improve Lives.

6. Update on Delivery of Social Security Benefits: The Minister for Social Security and Local Government (Ben Macpherson) moved S6M-04621—That the Parliament agrees that social security is a human right and an investment in people; welcomes the introduction and delivery of 12 Scottish social security benefits in total, seven of which are new forms of support only available in Scotland, including most recently the Scottish Child Payment, Child Disability Payment and Adult Disability Payment; notes the more humane and compassionate process for applying for the Adult Disability Payment, which contrasts with the intrusive assessments often required to receive Personal Independence Payment from the UK Government; further notes the implementation of a clinically determined definition of "terminal illness" and fast-tracking of these applications for support; welcomes the introduction of indefinite awards within Scottish disability assistance, which provides the most severely disabled people with long-term financial security; looks forward to the introduction of new benefits, including Low Income Winter Heating Assistance and Scottish Carer's Assistance; notes that social security is one of the three key pillars in the national mission to tackle child poverty, and commends the extension of the Scottish Child Payment to under-16s and plans to increase it to £25 per week per child by the end of the year; welcomes the substantial financial support that these benefits provide to people, which is important at all times and particularly so now as people are impacted by the cost of living crisis in the UK, and acknowledges the Scottish Government's record investment of £3.9 billion in benefit expenditure in 2022-23, which is £360 million above that received by the UK Government, all of which will provide meaningful social security support to over one million people, including low-income families and households, disabled people and carers.

Miles Briggs moved amendment S6M-04621.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-04621 in the name of Ben Macpherson (Update on Delivery of Social Security Benefits), leave out from "notes the more" to end and insert "notes the implementation of a clinically determined definition of "terminal illness" and fast-tracking of these applications for support; welcomes the introduction of indefinite awards within Scottish disability assistance, which provides the most severely disabled people with long-term financial security; looks forward to the introduction of new benefits, including Low Income Winter Heating Assistance and Scottish Carer's Assistance; notes that social security is one of the three key pillars in the national mission to tackle child poverty, and commends the extension of the Scottish Child

Payment to under-16s and plans to increase it to £25 per week per child by the end of the year; welcomes the substantial financial support that these benefits provide to people, which is important at all times and particularly so now as people are impacted by the cost of living crisis in the UK, and acknowledges the Scottish Government's record investment of £3.9 billion in benefit expenditure in 2022-23, which is £360 million above that received by the UK Government, all of which will provide meaningful social security support to over one million people, including low-income families and households, disabled people and carers; is concerned that the £251 million cut to local government funding will have a knock-on effect on debt advice services, which will have a detrimental impact on low-income families and households; notes further concern at the published processing times at Social Security Scotland showing record highs, with many applications taking 30 days to process, almost double the average processing time of September 2021, which raises further concerns about how Social Security Scotland will be able to cope with the additional caseload, given that Audit Scotland forecasts that the Adult Disability Payment caseload will increase from 20,000 cases in 2022-23 to 475,000 cases by 2026-27; seeks clarification on how the Scottish Government plans to finance increased social security expenditure, with a projected extra £760 million needed by 2026; thanks the Department for Work and Pensions for its continued support in helping to deliver these benefits through agency agreements when Social Security Scotland was unable to meet its proposed timescales for delivery, and looks forward to finally having full case transfer, as agreed, by 2025."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 28, Against 85, Abstentions 0).

Pam Duncan-Glancy moved amendment S6M-04621.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-04621 in the name of Ben Macpherson (Update on Delivery of Social Security Benefits), leave out from "; welcomes the introduction and delivery" to end and insert "but notes with concern that, in the face of a cost of living crisis, the Scottish Government has taken little action to deliver a social security system that adequately insulates the poorest in society from financial shocks, and protects more and more people from being driven into poverty; acknowledges the ambitious statements previously made by the Scottish Government on the opportunities given by the devolution of social security; is disappointed by the lack of progress made by the Scottish Government since; draws attention to the fact that over three quarters of devolved social security spending is still administrated by the Department for Work and Pensions, three out of four children who should be eligible for the Scottish Child Payment do not receive it, and no changes have been made at all to eligibility criteria for disability payments; considers that, despite the rhetoric indulged in by the Scottish Government boasting of transformational changes to benefits in Scotland, examination of the policy detail betrays the reality that very little radical change is taking place, and concludes that it is imperative that the Scottish Government takes on board the warnings of Audit Scotland that financial and staffing plans must be set

out in order for Scotland to have any reassurance that its social security system will be fit to deal with the challenges that lie ahead."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 49, Against 64, Abstentions 0).

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 65, Against 48, Abstentions 0).

7. Committee Membership: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-04617—That the Parliament agrees that—

Rachael Hamilton be appointed to replace Alexander Stewart as a member of the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee;

Jeremy Balfour be appointed to replace Craig Hoy as a member of the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee;

Tess White be appointed to replace Sue Webber as a member of the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee;

Sue Webber be appointed to replace Stephen Kerr as a member of the Education, Children and Young People Committee;

Alexander Stewart be appointed to replace Tess White as a member of the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

8. Substitution on Committees: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-04618—That the Parliament agrees that—

Craig Hoy be appointed to replace Jeremy Balfour as the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party substitute on the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee;

Tess White be appointed to replace Rachael Hamilton as the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party substitute on the Social Justice and Social Security Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

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

The meeting closed at 5.12 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
26 May 2022

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 26 May 2022—

Economy and Fair Work Committee, 6th Report, 2022 (Session 6): Annual Report of the Economy and Fair Work Committee for 2021/22 (SP Paper 181)

Legislative Consent Memorandum

The following memorandums were lodged on 25 May 2022—

Shona Robison, Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government: Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Social Security (Special Rules for End of Life) Bill (UK Parliament legislation) (LCM-S6-19)

Kate Forbes, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy: Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Procurement Bill (UK Parliament legislation) (LCM-S6-20)

New Subordinate Legislation

Negative Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 26 May 2022 and are subject to the negative procedure—

Justice of the Peace Court Fees (Scotland) Order 2022 (SSI 2022/179)
laid under section 133 of the Courts Reform (Scotland) Act 2014

Sheriff Court Fees Order 2022 (SSI 2022/181)
laid under section 133 of the Courts Reform (Scotland) Act 2014

High Court of Justiciary Fees Order 2022 (SSI 2022/182)
laid under section 133 of the Courts Reform (Scotland) Act 2014

Sheriff Appeal Court Fees Order 2022 (SSI 2022/183)
laid under section 133 of the Courts Reform (Scotland) Act 2014

Adults with Incapacity (Public Guardian's Fees) (Scotland) Regulations 2022 (SSI 2022/184)
laid under section 86 of the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000

Court of Session etc. Fees Order 2022 (SSI 2022/185)
laid under section 133(3) of the Courts Reform (Scotland) Act 2014

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 26 May 2022 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme: progress report 2022, Third annual progress report on the “Climate Ready Scotland: Scotland’s Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2019 to 2024”: **SG/2022/93** laid under section 54 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

Climate Change Plan Monitoring Report 2022: Electricity: **SG/2022/95** laid under section 35B of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

Climate Change Plan Monitoring Report 2022: Buildings: **SG/2022/96** laid under section 35B of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

Climate Change Plan Monitoring Report: Transport 2022: **SG/2022/97** laid under section 35B of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

Climate Change Plan Monitoring Report: Industry 2022: **SG/2022/98** laid under section 35B of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

Climate Change Plan Monitoring Report: Waste and the Circular Economy 2022: **SG/2022/99** laid under section 35B of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

Climate Change Plan Monitoring Report: Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) 2022: **SG/2022/100** laid under section 35B of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

Climate Change Plan Monitoring Report: Agriculture 2022: **SG/2022/101** laid under section 35B of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

Climate Change Plan Monitoring Report: Negative Emissions Technologies 2022: **SG/2022/102** laid under section 35B of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

Response to the Climate Change Committee: Progress reducing emissions in Scotland 2021 - Report to Parliament: **SG/2022/103** laid under section 9 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

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