



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 1, No. 57, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 8 December 2021

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 Net Zero, Energy and Transport were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.
- 2. Ministerial Statement:** The Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery (John Swinney) made a statement and answered questions on Scotland's Redress Scheme.
- 3. Urgent Question:** An urgent question, to ask the Scottish Government what steps it is taking to restore power to households experiencing power cuts following Storm Barra, was answered by the Deputy First (John Swinney).
- 4. Scotland Loves Local:** The Minister for Public Finance, Planning and Community Wealth (Tom Arthur) moved S6M-02442—That the Parliament supports the ambition to love local and enable people to live well in their communities by encouraging people to think and choose local, supporting local businesses and jobs and building community wealth; commends the efforts of communities since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in working together to support each other and local businesses; congratulates the winners of the Scotland Loves Local awards announced in November 2021, and welcomes the Scottish Government's commitments on 20-minute neighbourhoods, the transformation of safe spaces for walking, wheeling and cycling, a just transition to net zero, an inclusive wellbeing economy, tackling inequality, and community-led regeneration.

Douglas Lumsden moved amendment S6M-02442.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-02442 in the name of Tom Arthur (Scotland Loves Local), leave out from “and welcomes” to end and insert “; notes with concern Scottish Retail Consortium figures, which indicate that footfall for November 2021 was down by a fifth from November 2019; recognises, however, that Scotland’s high streets and town centres were struggling long before the COVID-19 pandemic began, and calls on the Scottish Government to deliver a budget on 9 December for 2022-23 that will drive local recovery by extending 75% non-domestic rates relief to retail, leisure, newspaper and hospitality businesses, and deliver a fair funding settlement to local authorities, so that they can properly invest in regenerating and supporting high streets and town centres.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 28, Against 85, Abstentions 2).

Colin Smyth moved amendment S6M-02442.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-02442 in the name of Tom Arthur (Scotland Loves Local), insert at end “; recognises that local businesses will play a key role in Scotland’s wider economic recovery but that, after months of closures and restrictions, many businesses still face an uncertain future; believes that, consequently, further support is needed in order to sustain and boost our town centres, and calls, therefore, on the Scottish Government to extend the 50% rates relief, which is available in England for retail, hospitality and leisure sectors, to these businesses in Scotland so they are given equal support on their road to recovery, and to produce a £50 high street voucher to provide a cash stimulus for these businesses and encourage footfall in local communities.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 21, Against 93, Abstentions 2).

The motion was then agreed to ((DT) by division: For 87, Against 28, Abstentions 0).

**5. Business Programme:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-02464—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 14 December 2021

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Topical Questions (if selected)

*followed by* First Minister’s Statement: COVID-19 Update

*followed by* Ministerial Statement: Actions to increase access, choice and support through drugs services in Scotland

*followed by* Ministerial Statement: Publication of Achievement of Curriculum for Excellence Levels Statistics

*followed by* Scottish Government Business

*followed by* Committee Announcements

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Wednesday 15 December 2021

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

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

*followed by* Scottish Conservative and Unionist 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 16 December 2021

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

*followed by* Members' Business

2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.30 pm Portfolio Questions: Constitution, External Affairs and Culture

*followed by* Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee Debate: Shaping Parliamentary Procedures and Practices for the Future

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 21 December 2021

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Topical Questions (if selected)

*followed by* First Minister's Statement: COVID-19 Update

*followed by* Scottish Government Business

*followed by* Committee Announcements

*followed by Business Motions*

*followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions*

5.00 pm Decision Time

*followed by Members' Business*

Wednesday 22 December 2021

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Justice and Veterans; Finance and Economy; Education and Skills

*followed by Scottish Government Business*

*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 23 December 2021

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 13 December 2021, 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.

**6. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-02465—That the Parliament agrees that the Independent Reviewer (Modification of Functions) (Scotland) Regulations 2021 [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-02466—That the Parliament agrees that the Plant Health (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2021 [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-02467—That the Parliament agrees

that the Redress for Survivors (Historical Child Abuse in Care) (Payments Materially Affected by Error) (Scotland) Regulations 2021 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

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

**10. East Kilbride Rail Line Dualling:** The Parliament debated S6M-01675 in the name of Graham Simpson—That the Parliament notes the reported announcement by Transport Scotland that the single track part of the rail line between East Kilbride and Glasgow is not now going to be dualled as, it understands, had previously been promised, and that the money will be spent elsewhere; sees this is a missed opportunity to persuade more people to travel by train; notes the view that improving public transport connections is vital if Scotland is to achieve a shift away from cars, and further notes calls on the Scottish Government to reconsider what it believes to be this short-sighted move.

The meeting closed at 6.11 pm.

**David McGill**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
8 December 2021

## **Appendix**

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

### **Committee Reports**

The following reports were published on 8 December 2021—

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee, 3rd Report, 2021 (Session 6):  
Subordinate Legislation considered by the Net Zero, Energy and Transport  
Committee on 30 November 2021 (SP Paper 58)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 19th Report, 2021 (Session  
6): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law  
Reform Committee on 7 December 2021 (SP Paper 65)

### **Other Documents**

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 8 December 2021 and is  
not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**Food Standards Scotland Annual Report & Accounts 2020-21 For the year  
ended 31 March 2021 SG/2021/87** laid under section 15(5) of the Food (Scotland)  
Act 2015

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