



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 1, No. 86, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 2 March 2022

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

**1. Revision to Business Programme:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-03443—That the Parliament agrees to the following revisions to the programme of business for Wednesday 2 March 2022—

after

*followed by* Scottish Government Debate: UK Shared Prosperity Fund – What This Means for Scotland

insert

*followed by* Ministerial Statement: National Strategy for Economic Transformation

delete

5.40 pm Decision Time

and insert

6.10 pm Decision Time

The motion was agreed to.

**2. Portfolio Questions:** Questions on Covid-19 Recovery and Parliamentary Business, and then Net Zero, Energy and Transport were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.

**3. UK Internal Market Inquiry:** Clare Adamson, on behalf of the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee, moved S6M-03389—That the Parliament notes the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee's 1st Report 2022 (Session 6), UK Internal Market Inquiry report (SP Paper 113).

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**4. Local Government Finance (Scotland) Order 2022 [draft]:** The Minister for Public Finance, Planning and Community Wealth (Tom Arthur) moved S6M-03394—That the Parliament agrees that the Local Government Finance (Scotland) Order 2022 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 86, Against 4, Abstentions 29).

**5. UK Shared Prosperity Fund – What This Means for Scotland:** The Minister for Just Transition, Employment and Fair Work (Richard Lochhead) moved S6M-03393—That the Parliament agrees that the UK Government's proposed arrangements for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) are more restrictive than the EU Structural Funds and fail to offer the level of autonomy and influence that the Scottish Government experienced under the EU; believes that the Scottish Government must have an equal role in determining how these funds are used; notes with concern a cross-party report from the Treasury Committee, which estimates that the total value of the UKSPF up to 2024-25 is a 40% reduction on the amount that the UK received under EU structural funds from 2014 to 2020; calls on the UK Government to urgently confirm that Scotland's allocation of the UKSPF matches its lost EU funding, as promised by the UK Government, given the absence of assurances in the Levelling Up white paper; believes that at least £183 million each year is required to deliver this, and calls for the UKSPF to be fully aligned behind the just transition to a net zero economy.

Liz Smith moved amendment S6M-03393.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-03393 in the name of Richard Lochhead (UK Shared Prosperity Fund - What This Means for Scotland), leave out from "agrees" to end and insert "warmly welcomes the UK Government's commitment to level up every part of the UK and the commitment provided by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, that Scotland's share of the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund, worth £2.6 billion over the next three years, will at least match the level of EU funds it is replacing; agrees with local authorities across Scotland, which have commended the UK Government for directly funding levelling up projects in their local areas, bringing much-needed investment and employment, and calls on the UK Government, the Scottish Government and local authorities to continue to work together to ensure the effective delivery of future projects."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 29, Against 91, Abstentions 0).

Daniel Johnson moved amendment S6M-03393.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-03393 in the name of Richard Lochhead (UK Shared Prosperity Fund - What This Means for Scotland), leave out from “agrees” to end and insert “recognises that the UK Government’s proposed arrangements for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund circumvent the devolved settlement; notes that there are increasing regional inequalities across Scotland, including in health, child poverty, income and economic opportunities, which neither the UK Government nor the Scottish Government is adequately tackling; regrets that Scotland’s progress in closing the gap in productivity levels with the UK average has been halted during the last decade; understands that the voluntary sector has highlighted the potential loss of funding compared with previous years and has called for certainty around funding and delivery; notes that both the Scottish and UK governments have a record of centralising control and decision-making on the delivery of funding, and believes that decisions around addressing regional inequalities are best made in the regions and communities where support is needed; calls, therefore, for the Scottish Government to deliver adequate funding for local authorities, and further calls for the UK and Scottish governments to work together constructively to take the urgent action needed to address the regional inequalities in Scotland, and ensure that communities across Scotland receive the additional support and funding that they desperately need.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 24, Against 96, Abstentions 0).

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

**6. Ministerial Statement:** The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy (Kate Forbes) answered questions on National Strategy for Economic Transformation.

**7. Business Programme:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-03422—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 8 March 2022

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Topical Questions (if selected)

*followed by* Scottish Government Debate: International Women’s Day 2022

*followed by* Committee Announcements

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Wednesday 9 March 2022

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

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

*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 10 March 2022

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

*followed by* Members' Business

2.15 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.15 pm Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body Questions

*followed by* Portfolio Questions: Constitution, External Affairs and Culture

*followed by* Ministerial Statement: Scottish Government Response to Report by Independent Advisor on Education Reform

*followed by* Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee Debate: The Road to COP27 and Beyond: Tackling the Climate Emergency in the Aftermath of COP26

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 15 March 2022

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* Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee Debate: Ending Conversion Practices

*followed by* Committee Announcements

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Wednesday 16 March 2022

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

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

*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 17 March 2022

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: Education and Skills

*followed by* Scottish Government Business

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

(b) that, for the purposes of Portfolio Questions in the week beginning 7 March 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.

**8. Stage 1 Timetable:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-03426—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Scottish Local Government Elections (Candidacy Rights of Foreign Nationals) (Scotland) Bill at stage 1 be completed by 1 April 2022.

The motion was agreed to.

**9. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-03423—That the Parliament agrees that the Aquaculture and Fisheries etc. (Scheme for Financial Assistance) (Scotland) Regulations 2022 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**10. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-03424—That the Parliament agrees that the Community Care (Personal Care and Nursing Care) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2022 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**11. Designation of Lead Committee:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-03425—That the Parliament agrees that the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the Legislative Consent Memorandum in relation to the High Speed Rail (Crewe - Manchester) Bill (UK Legislation).

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**12. Decision Time:** The Parliament took decisions on items 3, 4, 5, 9, 10 and 11 as noted above.

**13. Epilepsy and Employment in Scotland:** The Parliament debated S6M-02932 in the name of Alasdair Allan—That the Parliament welcomes new research commissioned by Epilepsy Scotland from the Scottish Centre for Employment Research, which highlights the difficulties facing people with epilepsy to find and retain secure employment; understands that Scotland has some of the greatest disability employment gaps in the UK; notes reports that only 36.9% of people with epilepsy in the UK are employed, which it understands is lower than the general disability employment rate of 44.4%; considers that a lack of knowledge about epilepsy and how it is individually experienced is contributing to this significant employment gap; notes the calls for substantial investment in research to improve data and better understand the employment barriers that are facing people with epilepsy in Scotland, and further notes the calls on the Scottish Government to urgently assess how the strategic framework, A Fairer Scotland for Disabled People, is meeting the needs of people with epilepsy, including in Na h-Eileanan an Iar, and if anything further can be done in the medium to long term to improve rates of employment in this population.

The meeting closed at 7.07 pm.

**David McGill**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
2 March 2022

## **Appendix**

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

### **Committee Reports**

The following reports were published on 2 March 2022—

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee, 4th Report, 2022 (Session 6):  
Subordinate Legislation Considered by the Health Social Care and Sport  
Committee on 1 March 2022 (SP Paper 122)

Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee, 2nd Report, 2022  
(Session 6): Report on Building Safety Bill Legislative Consent Memorandum  
(SP Paper 125)

### **Subordinate Legislation**

#### **Affirmative Instruments**

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 2 March 2022 and is  
subject to the affirmative procedure—

Prohibition of Smoking Outside Hospital Buildings (Scotland) Regulations 2022  
[draft]

laid under section 40(3)(a) of the Smoking, Health and Social Care (Scotland)  
Act 2005

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