



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 1, No. 48, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 17 November 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 Net Zero, Energy and Transport were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.
- 2. Ministerial Statement:** The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity (Lorna Slater) made a statement and answered questions on Towards a Circular Economy.
- 3. Delivering Promised Road Infrastructure Across Scotland:** Graham Simpson moved S6M-02138—That the Parliament recognises that driving in most parts of Scotland is a necessity; believes that the Cooperation Agreement between the Scottish Government and the Scottish Green Party Parliamentary Group should not prevent or delay the delivery of any future road projects, and calls upon the Scottish Government to reaffirm its commitment to dualling the A9 and A96 and commit to upgrading the A1, A75, A77, A82, A83 and A90.

The Minister for Transport (Graeme Dey) moved amendment S6M-02138.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-02138 in the name of Graham Simpson (Delivering Promised Road Infrastructure Across Scotland), leave out from "driving" to end and insert ", in the face of the climate emergency and the imperative to cut greenhouse gas emissions, as a nation, there is a need to encourage more people to use more sustainable travel options and reduce their car use; acknowledges the need to shift away from spending money on new road

projects that encourage more people to drive, and instead focus resource on maintaining roads and improving safety; agrees that people need a realistic and affordable alternative in public transport and active travel, and notes that the Scottish Government will set out its plans for future investment in Scotland's transport network in the second Strategic Transport Projects Review."

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 86, Against 32, Abstentions 0).

Neil Bibby moved amendment S6M-02138.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-02138 in the name of Graham Simpson (Delivering Promised Road Infrastructure Across Scotland), leave out from "recognises" to end and insert "regrets that car dependency remains the norm in Scotland, partly due to Scotland's inadequate public transport system; calls upon the Scottish Government to upgrade key routes, such as the A9 and A96, A1, A737, A75, A77, A82, A83, A90 and other vital road links, to deliver improved road safety, journey times and reliability; considers that decisions about investment in transport infrastructure, including roads, must have due regard to road safety, economic and community development and climate impact; further considers that local government requires a fair funding settlement to allow councils and communities to improve local roads and cycle routes, to bring local transport under democratic public control and invest in better local transport and green infrastructure; believes that all parts of Scotland would benefit from enhanced public transport, and calls upon the Scottish Government to support integrated ticketing on public transport, action to reverse the decline in local bus services, the extension of free bus travel to under-25s, the dedication of 10% of the transport budget to active travel, and the restoration of rail services to pre-pandemic levels."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 23, Against 95, Abstentions 0).

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

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—That the Parliament recognises that, in the face of the climate emergency and the imperative to cut greenhouse gas emissions, as a nation, there is a need to encourage more people to use more sustainable travel options and reduce their car use; acknowledges the need to shift away from spending money on new road projects that encourage more people to drive, and instead focus resource on maintaining roads and improving safety; agrees that people need a realistic and affordable alternative in public transport and active travel, and notes that the Scottish Government will set out its plans for future investment in Scotland's transport network in the second Strategic Transport Projects Review.

4. Removing the Cap on Funded Places for Frontline Medical Students: Sandesh Gulhane moved S6M-02139—That the Parliament calls on the Scottish Government to remove the cap on funded training places for students from Scotland studying for frontline NHS roles.

The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care (Humza Yousaf) moved amendment S6M-02139.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-02139 in the name of Sandesh Gulhane (Removing the Cap on Funded Places for Frontline Medical Students), leave out from "calls" to end and insert "welcomes the sustained increases in medical undergraduate places at Scottish universities; notes that the level of new domestic training places for medicine is proportionately higher in Scotland than anywhere else in the UK; further notes that, this year, the Scottish Government fully funded all places for Scottish domiciled students holding an offer from a Scottish medical school, where they met the terms of their conditional offer; recognises that the Programme for Government sets out steps to substantially increase training places further; believes that widening access to medicine is essential, and supports doubling the number of widening access places to help create a more diverse medical workforce."

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 67, Against 51, Abstentions 0).

Jackie Baillie moved amendment S6M-02139.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-02139 in the name of Sandesh Gulhane (Removing the Cap on Funded Places for Frontline Medical Students), insert at end "; recognises that the Scottish Government has presided over historic workforce planning failures across the NHS, with warnings of shortages and staff burnout long before the pandemic; considers that, as well as recruitment, there is an immediate need to improve retention of staff, following reports that many are planning to leave their profession; calls on the Scottish Government to ensure that basic facilities, such as hot meals and rest spaces, are available to all staff, and to improve access to specialised mental health support for the workforce, and recommends that the Scottish Government offers a working time review to every staff member considering retirement, thereby offering more flexible working arrangements, and calls on the expertise of retired nurses and medical professionals willing to return to the NHS to increase workforce capacity over winter."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 51, Against 67, Abstentions 0).

The motion, as amended, was then agreed to ((DT) by division: For 67, Against 50, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved— That the Parliament welcomes the sustained increases in medical undergraduate places at Scottish universities; notes that the level of new domestic training places for medicine is proportionately higher in Scotland than anywhere else in the UK; further notes that, this year, the Scottish Government fully funded all places for Scottish domiciled students holding an offer from a Scottish medical school, where they met the terms of their conditional offer; recognises that the Programme for Government sets out steps to substantially increase training places

further; believes that widening access to medicine is essential, and supports doubling the number of widening access places to help create a more diverse medical workforce.

5. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-02155—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 23 November 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: International Development COVID-19 Support - Partner Countries and Humanitarian Responses

followed by Ministerial Statement: Closing the Poverty Related Attainment Gap - The Future of the Scottish Attainment Challenge

followed by Ministerial Statement: Scottish Government Response to the Report of the Citizens' Assembly of Scotland

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

4.50 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 24 November 2021

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

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

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Transvaginal Mesh Removal (Cost Reimbursement) (Scotland) Bill

followed by Financial Resolution: Transvaginal Mesh Removal (Cost Reimbursement) (Scotland) Bill

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 25 November 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 Scottish Government Debate: International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 30 November 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 1 December 2021

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

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

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 2 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: Education and Skills

followed by COVID-19 Recovery Committee Debate

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

(b) that, for the purposes of Portfolio Questions in the week beginning 22 November 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. Stage 1 Timetable: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-02156—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Bill at stage 1 be completed by 25 March 2022.

The motion was agreed to.

7. Stage 1 Timetable: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-02157—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Miners' Strike (Pardons) (Scotland) Bill at stage 1 be completed by 1 April 2022.

The motion was agreed to.

8. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 3 and 4 as noted above.

9. Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month 2021: The Parliament debated S6M-01259 in the name of Clare Adamson—That the Parliament acknowledges that November is Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month, and that 18 November 2021 is World Pancreatic Cancer Day; understands that pancreatic cancer is one of the most aggressive and least survivable forms of cancer, with more than half of people diagnosed with it dying within three months; further understands that pancreatic cancer can affect anyone, but that it is subject to multiple inequalities with poorer outcomes for certain communities and those living in more deprived areas; understands that survival rates have remained almost static for the last 50 years; highlights the importance of early diagnosis and intervention; notes the view that raising public awareness of key symptoms of pancreatic cancer is vital to that aim; understands that key symptoms of pancreatic cancer include abdominal or back pain or discomfort, unexplained weight loss or a loss of appetite, yellowing of the skin or eyes and/or itchy skin, a change in bowel habits, nausea or vomiting, and indigestion that does not respond to treatment; commends all of the charities and activist organisations and their dedicated supporters for their tireless efforts to raise awareness of pancreatic cancer, and wishes everyone involved with Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month every success in their endeavours.

10. Motion without Notice: Clare Adamson moved without notice that, under Rule 8.14.3, the debate be extended by up to 30 minutes. The motion was agreed to.

The meeting closed at 7.09 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
17 November 2021

Appendix

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

Legislative Consent Memorandum

The following memorandum was lodged on 17 November 2021—

Keith Brown, Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Veterans: Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Judicial Review and Courts Bill (UK Parliament legislation) (LCM-S6-10)

Other Documents

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 17 November 2021 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Scottish Public Services Ombudsman: Compendium Report of Discontinued Investigation: Compendium of Case Reports for November 2021 SPSO/2021/10
laid under Sections 15(1) and 15(1A) of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002

Published by the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body

All documents are available on
the Scottish Parliament website at:

www.parliament.scot/documents

For information on the Scottish Parliament contact
Public Information on:

Telephone: 0131 348 5000 or 0800 092 7500

Email: sp.info@parliament.scot

Live chat on parliament.scot

You can write to us in any language or contact us
using the Text Relay service or in British Sign

Language through contactScotland-BSL.

© Parliamentary copyright. Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body

The Scottish Parliament's copyright policy can be found on the website -
www.parliament.scot or by contacting Public Information.

