



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 3, No. 35, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 4 October 2023

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands and then NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.

2. Reversal of the UK Government's Two-child Benefit Cap: The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice (Shirley-Anne Somerville) moved S6M-10716—That the Parliament calls on the UK Government to scrap the punitive two-child limit, which limits the amount of Universal Credit and Child Tax Credit a family can receive and undermines action to reduce child poverty in Scotland.

Miles Briggs moved amendment S6M-10716.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-10716 in the name of Shirley-Anne Somerville (Reversal of the UK Government's Two-child Benefit Cap), leave out from "calls" to end and insert "notes that the UK Government has a duty to manage public finances carefully for future generations; considers that the UK Government has sought to curb increasing welfare spending by reducing benefits to those on higher incomes; acknowledges exemptions to the two-child policy in respect of Universal Credit and Child Tax Credit, such as for families with children with disabilities; welcomes the UK Government's £94 billion in support to help families navigate the global cost of living crisis, and commits to focusing on debating issues that are within devolved responsibilities, such as the roll-out of benefits through Social Security Scotland, the closing of the poverty-related attainment gap, the roll-out of free school meals, the inability of local authorities to

adequately fund childcare provisions and the disturbing number of children in temporary accommodation."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 28, Against 78, Abstentions 0).

Paul O'Kane moved amendment S6M-10716.1—

As an amendment to motion S5M-10716 in the name of Shirley-Anne Somerville (Reversal of the UK Government's Two-child Benefit Cap), insert at end "; notes that an estimated two thirds of children in poverty live in working households, 10% of all employees in Scotland are stuck in low pay, and that 72% of that group are women, and welcomes, therefore, the proposal for a New Deal for Working People, which has been endorsed by the TUC and includes plans to ban zero-hours contracts, outlaw fire and rehire practices, and raise the minimum wage in order to tackle insecure work and to make sure that work pays as a key route to ending poverty."

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 75, Against 28, Abstentions 3).

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 78, Against 29, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament calls on the UK Government to scrap the punitive two-child limit, which limits the amount of Universal Credit and Child Tax Credit a family can receive and undermines action to reduce child poverty in Scotland; notes that an estimated two thirds of children in poverty live in working households, 10% of all employees in Scotland are stuck in low pay, and that 72% of that group are women, and welcomes, therefore, the proposal for a New Deal for Working People, which has been endorsed by the TUC and includes plans to ban zero-hours contracts, outlaw fire and rehire practices, and raise the minimum wage in order to tackle insecure work and to make sure that work pays as a key route to ending poverty.

3. Energy Bill - UK Legislation: The Minister for Energy and the Environment (Gillian Martin) moved S6M-10709—That the Parliament agrees that all relevant provisions of the Energy Bill, introduced in the House of Lords on 6 July 2022 and subsequently amended, so far as these matters fall within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament or alter the executive competence of the Scottish Ministers, should be considered by the UK Parliament.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

4. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-10729—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 24 October 2023

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Ministerial Statement: Planning for Winter 2023-24 and Ongoing Resilience Across Health and Social Care

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Transvaginal Mesh

followed by Legislative Consent Motion: Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill - UK Legislation

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.30 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 25 October 2023

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Constitution, External Affairs and Culture; Justice and Home Affairs

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 26 October 2023

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 Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee Debate: Public Participation Inquiry

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 31 October 2023

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

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 November 2023

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy; Finance and
Parliamentary Business

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 2 November 2023

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: Transport, Net Zero and Just Transition

followed by Scottish Government Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

(b) that, for the purposes of Portfolio Questions in the week beginning 23 October 2023, 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.

5. Stage 1 Timetable: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-10730—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Visitor Levy (Scotland) Bill at stage 1 be completed by 19 January 2024.

The motion was agreed to.

6. Stage 1 Extension: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-10731—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Regulation of Legal Services (Scotland) Bill at stage 1 be extended to 23 February 2024.

The motion was agreed to.

7. Committee Meeting Times: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-10732—That the Parliament agrees that, under Rule 12.3.3B of Standing Orders, the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee, the Criminal Justice Committee and the Social Justice and Social Security Committee can meet jointly, if necessary, at the same time as a meeting of the Parliament between 1.00 pm and 2.15 pm on 2 November 2023.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

8. Designation of Lead Committee: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-10733—That the Parliament agrees that the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the Agriculture and Rural Communities (Scotland) Bill at stage 1.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

9. Motion Without Notice: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved without notice that, under Rule 11.2.4, Decision Time be brought forward to 5.22 pm.

The motion was agreed to.

10. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 2, 3, 7 and 8 as noted above.

11. Stoma Care in Scotland: The Parliament debated S6M-10345 in the name of Edward Mountain—That the Parliament acknowledges what it sees as the importance

of stoma formation in healthcare, and congratulates all those involved in supporting people with them, including in the Highlands and Islands region; notes the dedication shown by those who work in this field in ensuring that the best care is provided in what is considered a life-changing event, and notes calls for all organisations to play their part in ensuring that those with stomas are able to lead normal and full lives.

The meeting closed at 6.11 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
4 October 2023

Appendix

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

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 4 October 2023—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 56th Report, 2023 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 3 October 2023 (SP Paper 442)

Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee, 7th Report, 2023 (Session 6): The Legal Aid and Advice and Assistance (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) (No. 4) Regulations 2023 [draft] (SP Paper 444)

The following report will be published on 5 October 2023—

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee, 14th Report, 2023 (Session 6): Report on The Deposit and Return Scheme for Scotland (Miscellaneous Amendment) Regulations 2023 [draft] (SP Paper 446)

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 4 October 2023 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Children Hearing's Scotland: 'The Feedback Loop' - A Report by the National Convener on the implementation of Compulsory Supervision Orders (under section 181 of the Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011) for years 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23 (SG/2023/191) laid under Section 181 of the Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011

Disclosure Scotland Annual Report and Accounts 2022/23 (SG/2023/179) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

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