



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 2, No. 66, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 19 January 2023

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

The meeting opened at 11.40 am.

- 1. General Questions:** Questions were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.
- 2. First Minister's Questions:** Questions were answered by the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon).
- 3. Fire Brigades Union DECON Campaign:** The Parliament debated S6M-06671 in the name of Maggie Chapman—That the Parliament commends the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) in Scotland for leading the DECON Campaign, whose aim is to protect the health and save the lives of firefighters by reducing exposure to harmful contaminants that cause cancer and disease; recognises what it sees as the fundamental role that research and data play in fully understanding the risks that firefighters face in their day-to-day working lives; understands that in 2022 the World Health Organization declared occupational exposure experienced by firefighters as carcinogenic, a preventable cause of human cancer; further understands that, in the UK, the FBU, alongside Professor Anna Stec from the University of Central Lancashire, has led research into the links between cancer and firefighting, as well as best practices that can help mitigate potential risks from fire contaminants, including commissioning and working with independent researchers to develop a Firefighters Cancer and Disease Registry; applauds the FBU and its partners for producing best practice guidance and training for firefighters alongside the DECON campaign; understands that DECON is the largest study of its kind in the UK; expresses its solidarity with all involved in the campaign, and wishes them every

success in improving the lives of firefighters in the North East Scotland region, more widely across Scotland and throughout the UK.

4. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Net Zero, Energy and Transport were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and Ministers.

5. Ministerial Statement: The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity (Lorna Slater) made a statement and answered questions on Scotland's Biodiversity Strategy.

6. Carbon Neutral Islands Project – First Steps Towards Decarbonisation: The Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands (Mairi Gougeon) moved S6M-07558—That the Parliament welcomes the Scottish Government's publication of a progress report on the Carbon Neutral Islands Project; notes that the first steps to support the six islands towards becoming fully carbon neutral by 2040 are underway; recognises that the six islands included in the project will act as lighthouse communities, spreading knowledge and good practices to other Scottish islands; acknowledges that communities are at the heart of the project and that they will be supported to take advantage of the opportunities that the transition to net zero presents; continues to support this initiative and the soon-to-be-published community climate change action plans, and acknowledges that the six Carbon Neutral Islands will demonstrate Scotland's climate change ambitions on the international stage.

Liam Kerr moved amendment S6M-07558.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-07558 in the name of Mairi Gougeon (Carbon Neutral Islands Project - First Steps Towards Decarbonisation), insert at end "; welcomes UK Government investment in carbon-reducing initiatives on Scotland's islands, such as the work of Reflex Orkney; notes the good work currently underway at a local level in many island communities; believes that Carbon Neutral Islands can only be achieved through a co-ordinated cross-government approach; emphasises that the desired outcome will require adequate, timely and demonstrably beneficial, targeted investment and resource in transport to and within the islands; recognises the need for a fit-for-purpose ferry fleet that achieves equally carbon-neutral objectives, adequate EV charging or hydrogen alternatives and opportunities to enable islanders, businesses and public transport to move to non-carbon or electric vehicles; advocates for a holistic approach to housing stock and insulation, transport, localised energy provision and storage and support for small businesses working towards net-zero operability, and believes that full decarbonisation of these islands will only be successful if all cogs of the governmental wheel back up that ambition with suitable investment."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 48, Against 60 (including 1 proxy vote), Abstentions 0).

Rhoda Grant moved amendment S6M-07558.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-07558 in the name of Mairi Gougeon (Carbon Neutral Islands Project - First Steps Towards Decarbonisation), insert

at end "; recognises that the cost of living crisis is hitting some of the islands' communities hardest, including fuel poverty being highest among some of the islands that are not included in the Carbon Neutral Islands Project, and therefore awaits Scottish Government plans to assist all islands during the energy crisis; calls for guarantees that a just transition for workers is included in all areas of the strategy, and believes that the Scottish Government, UK Government, local authorities and all other island-related agencies must be involved to truly reach net zero."

After debate, the amendment was agreed to (DT).

Liam McArthur moved amendment S6M-07558.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-07558 in the name of Mairi Gougeon (Carbon Neutral Islands Project - First Steps Towards Decarbonisation), insert at end ", which it believes must also be underpinned by a commitment to decarbonise lifeline ferry services across all routes that serve Scotland's island communities."

After debate, the amendment pre-empted (DT).

The motion, as amended, was then agreed to (DT).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament welcomes the Scottish Government's publication of a progress report on the Carbon Neutral Islands Project; notes that the first steps to support the six islands towards becoming fully carbon neutral by 2040 are underway; recognises that the six islands included in the project will act as lighthouse communities, spreading knowledge and good practices to other Scottish islands; acknowledges that communities are at the heart of the project and that they will be supported to take advantage of the opportunities that the transition to net zero presents; continues to support this initiative and the soon-to-be-published community climate change action plans; acknowledges that the six Carbon Neutral Islands will demonstrate Scotland's climate change ambitions on the international stage; recognises that the cost of living crisis is hitting some of the islands' communities hardest, including fuel poverty being highest among some of the islands that are not included in the Carbon Neutral Islands Project, and therefore awaits Scottish Government plans to assist all islands during the energy crisis; calls for guarantees that a just transition for workers is included in all areas of the strategy, and believes that the Scottish Government, UK Government, local authorities and all other island-related agencies must be involved to truly reach net zero.

7. Committee Membership: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-07585—That the Parliament agrees that—

Paul Sweeney be appointed to replace Carol Mochan as a member of the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee.

Carol Mochan be appointed to replace Paul Sweeney as a member of the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee.

Carol Mochan be appointed to replace Paul Sweeney as a member of the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

8. Substitution on Committee: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-07586—That the Parliament agrees that Rhoda Grant be appointed to replace Carol Mochan as the Scottish Labour Party substitute on the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions 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 5.09 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
19 January 2023

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 18 January 2023—

Economy and Fair Work Committee, 1st Report, 2023 (Session 6):
Supplementary Legislation Consent Memorandum considered by the
Economy and Fair Work Committee on 18 January 2023 (SP Paper 300)

The following report was published on 19 January 2023—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 7th Report, 2023 (Session 6):
Trusts and Succession (Scotland) Bill: Stage 1 (SP Paper 299)

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 19 January 2023 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Environmental Regulation (Enforcement Measures) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2023 [draft]
laid under section 58(3)(a) of the Regulatory Reform (Scotland) Act 2014

Negative Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 19 January 2023 and are subject to the negative procedure—

Packaging Waste (Data Reporting) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 (SSI 2023/7)
laid under 58(5) of the Regulatory Reform (Scotland) Act 2014

Cost of Living (Tenant Protection) (Scotland) Act 2022 (Early Expiry and Suspension of Provisions) Regulations 2023 (SSI 2023/8)
laid under sections 6(6)(b) and 8(5)(b) of the Cost of Living (Tenant Protection) (Scotland) Act 2022

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 19 January 2023 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Fair Start Scotland Annual Report Year 4 (SG/2023/017) laid by a member of the Scottish Government and not under any laying power

Scottish Government: Annual Report on Procurement Activity in Scotland - An overview of procurement activity 2020-21 (SG/2023/004) laid under Section 21(4)(b) of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014

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.