



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 1, No. 85, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 1 March 2022

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

- 1. Time for Reflection:** Fr. Jim Duggan, Parish Priest, St Charles RC Church, Paisley, led Time for Reflection.
- 2. Topical Questions:** Questions were answered by Cabinet Secretaries.
- 3. Ministerial Statement:** The Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport (Michael Matheson) made a statement and answered questions on Update on Scotland's Climate Assembly.
- 4. A Scottish Approach to the Mental Health and Wellbeing of our Veterans in Each Community:** The Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Veterans (Keith Brown) moved S6M-03381—That the Parliament recognises the importance of supporting veterans and greatly values the significant contribution that they continue to make in Scotland; notes the NHS National Services Scotland publication by the Scottish Veterans Care Network, Veterans Mental Health and Wellbeing Action Plan, setting out how it will take forward key principles to improve veterans' mental health and wellbeing in Scotland, and understands that this action plan highlights the need to take an holistic approach that takes account of housing, employment, education and other needs, and work in partnership across the Scottish public, private and charitable sectors and with the UK Government to ensure that veterans and their families receive the best possible support and access to services across Scotland.

Craig Hoy moved amendment S6M-03381.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-03381 in the name of Keith Brown (A Scottish Approach to the Mental Health and Wellbeing of our Veterans in Each Community), leave out from “recognises” to end and insert “believes that veterans must be able to secure the right help at the right time through access to mental health and wellbeing services that are timely, high quality and right for them as individuals; recognises the importance of supporting veterans and greatly values the significant contribution that they continue to make in Scotland; notes the NHS National Services Scotland publication by the Scottish Veterans Care Network, Veterans Mental Health and Wellbeing Action Plan, setting out how it will take forward key principles to improve veterans’ mental health and wellbeing in Scotland; understands that this action plan highlights the need to take an holistic approach that takes account of housing, employment, education and other needs, and work in partnership across the Scottish public, private and charitable sectors and with the UK Government to ensure that veterans and their families receive the best possible support and access to services across Scotland, and, while recognising that the plan suggests timelines for delivery on the principles will vary across Scotland, believes that the Scottish Government and partner agencies should aim to assess and implement the 38 action plan recommendations within 24 months, and, furthermore, welcomes the introduction of the Veterans’ Recognition Scheme by the UK Government, which will ensure that veterans can more quickly, easily and securely prove that they served in the UK Armed Forces, and access the services that they need.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 50, Against 68, Abstentions 0).

Paul Sweeney moved amendment S6M-03381.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-03381 in the name of Keith Brown (A Scottish Approach to the Mental Health and Wellbeing of our Veterans in Each Community), insert at end “; acknowledges the recommendation in the action plan that veterans who are at risk of suicide should be considered in the Scottish Government’s new Suicide Prevention Strategy for Scotland; notes that this strategy is now not due to be published until September 2022, and calls for the Scottish Government to update the Parliament, in advance of its publication, on the action taken to develop and deliver veteran-specific suicide prevention training, and improve access to mental health support for veterans.”

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

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

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved— That the Parliament recognises the importance of supporting veterans and greatly values the significant contribution that they continue to make in Scotland; notes the NHS National Services Scotland publication by the Scottish Veterans Care Network, Veterans Mental Health and Wellbeing Action Plan, setting out how it will take forward key principles to improve veterans’ mental health and wellbeing in Scotland; understands that this action plan highlights the need to take an holistic approach that takes account of housing, employment, education and other needs, and work in partnership across the Scottish public, private and charitable

sectors and with the UK Government to ensure that veterans and their families receive the best possible support and access to services across Scotland; acknowledges the recommendation in the action plan that veterans who are at risk of suicide should be considered in the Scottish Government's new Suicide Prevention Strategy for Scotland; notes that this strategy is now not due to be published until September 2022, and calls for the Scottish Government to update the Parliament, in advance of its publication, on the action taken to develop and deliver veteran-specific suicide prevention training, and improve access to mental health support for veterans.

5. Referral of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-03409—That the Parliament agrees that the Local Government Finance (Scotland) Order 2022 [draft] be considered by the Parliament.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

6. Suspension of Standing Orders: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-03410— That the Parliament agrees that, for the purposes of consideration of the second supplementary legislative consent memorandum on the Professional Qualifications Bill (UK Legislation), Rule 9B.3.5 of Standing Orders is suspended.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

7. Committee Announcement: Kenneth Gibson, on behalf of the Finance and Public Administration Committee, made an announcement on Inquiry into the National Performance Framework: Ambitions into Action.

8. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 4, 5 and 6 as noted above.

9. Eating Disorders Awareness Week 2022: The Parliament debated S6M-02886 in the name of Emma Harper—That the Parliament notes that Eating Disorders Awareness Week occurs on 28 February to 6 of March 2022 and this year focuses on the importance of Early Warning Signs in Primary Care; further notes reports that eating disorders affect 1 in 50 people across Scotland and the wider UK; understands that more people lose their lives due to eating disorders than any other mental health condition; further understands that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the number of persons with eating disorders, with a reported increase of 86% in referrals between 2019 and 2020; notes that the Beat eating disorders charity highlights that less than two hours of medical education leading to a medical degree is focused on eating disorder education; further notes calls from Beat for medical schools across Scotland, and the UK, and the General Medical Council, to ensure that eating disorder education is an important focus of medical degrees, including for those in General Practice training; welcomes the Scottish Government's reported commitment of £120 million for a mental health recovery and renewal fund, with a focus on additional support for mental health in primary care settings and enhanced community support; notes the May 2021 publication of the Scottish Eating Disorder Services Review, which it understands makes 15 recommendations on how eating disorder support services can be improved; further notes the calls for the Scottish Government to provide an

update on current work to implement the recommendations and better support all those impacted by an eating disorder, and thanks all eating disorders interest groups, including Beat and the Scottish Eating Disorders Interest Group (SEDIG), for their work to raise awareness and understanding of eating disorders, as well as to support those impacted by them.

The meeting closed at 6.14 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
1 March 2022

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 28 February 2022—

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee, 4th Report, 2022 (Session 6):
Subordinate Legislation considered by the Committee on 22 February 2022
(SP paper 119)

Legislative Consent Memorandum

The following memorandum was lodged on 28 February 2022—

Kate Forbes, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy:
Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Professional
Qualifications Bill (UK Parliament legislation) (LCM-S6-3b)

Subordinate Legislation

Negative Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 25 February 2022 and are subject to the negative procedure—

Registration Services (Fees, etc.) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2022 (SSI 2022/68)

laid under section 28(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform
(Scotland) Act 2010

Prisons and Young Offenders Institutions (Coronavirus) (Scotland) Amendment Rules 2022 (SSI 2022/73)

laid under section 42 of the Prisons (Scotland) Act 1989

Laid Only Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 28 February 2022 and is not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Prescription (Scotland) Act 2018 (Commencement, Saving and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2022 (SSI 2022/78 (C. 6))

laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform
(Scotland) Act 2010

Other Documents

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 28 February 2022 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Report to the Scottish Parliament on Orders regulating the management of Shellfisheries under the Sea Fisheries (Shellfish) Act 1967 SG/2022/17 laid under Section 6 of the Sea Fisheries (Shellfish) Act 1967

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