



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 1, No. 28, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 16 September 2021

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. SCVO Creates its 10,000th CJS Job in Scotland's Voluntary Sector: The Parliament debated S6M-00768 in the name of Miles Briggs—That the Parliament recognises and celebrates what it sees as the continued success of the SCVO-run Community Jobs Scotland (CJS) employability programme as it creates its 10,000th job; understands that CJS provides paid jobs for young people, with targeted efforts to help those who are disadvantaged and vulnerable; believes that its model and approach has been incredibly effective in ensuring that young people who face particular challenges, such as having caring responsibilities, being care-experienced, holding criminal convictions, leaving the armed forces early or living with disability, are given the opportunity to take their first steps into employment; notes that CJS was established in 2011, when levels of youth unemployment were high; acknowledges that, over this time, phases 1 to 11 of the programme have created paid jobs for 10,049 young people, with an average of 54% being retained by their employer after their initial job had ended, and 64% recording positive outcomes into jobs, volunteering or education; welcomes CJS's adoption of a competitive application and interview process before a young person is offered a job and considers that this, alongside compliance with employer policies and procedures, is extremely important in terms of instilling a sense of belonging in a real work environment; understands that phase 11,

which is currently underway, will support up to up to a further 560 opportunities for vulnerable young unemployed people aged up to 29 through a range of voluntary sector organisations across all 32 local authority areas; welcomes the recent announcement of the 10,000th CJS job, which will see a young person take on the role of Creative Assistant with Impact Arts (Projects) Limited for 40 weeks, and looks forward to further opportunities opening up with CJS, to help support vulnerable young people in the Edinburgh region and across Scotland who face significant barriers, but who deserve to play their full role in society.

4. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Education and Skills were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and Ministers.

5. A Land of Opportunity - Supporting a Fairer and More Equal Society: The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government (Shona Robison) moved S6M-01248—That the Parliament welcomes the ambitious programme of work laid out in the Programme for Government to create a fairer society; agrees that tackling child poverty is a national mission and recognises Scottish Government actions, including doubling the Scottish Child Payment as early as possible within the current parliamentary session, new bridging payments until the Payment is rolled out to under-16s, increasing access to advice services to maximise incomes, expansion of free school meals provision, new statutory guidance to reduce the costs of school uniforms, supporting working parents with a system of wraparound childcare for school-age children and an investment of £1 billion over the session to tackle the poverty-related attainment gap; welcomes the Scottish Government's commitment to expand early learning and childcare to one- and two-year-olds, starting with those from low-income households; further welcomes the continuation of the ambitious social security programme, including the doubling of Carer's Allowance Supplement this year and the introduction of new disability benefits; recognises the ambitious programme of work to ensure that everyone has the right to a safe warm affordable home; welcomes the new deal for tenants; acknowledges the work needed to be done to embed and advance equality, inclusion and human rights across society, and commits to working together during Scotland's recovery from COVID-19 in order to build a fairer and more equal society.

Miles Briggs moved amendment S6M-01248.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-01248 in the name of Shona Robison (A Land of Opportunity- Supporting a Fairer and More Equal Society), leave out from first “welcomes” to “across society” and insert “agrees that tackling child poverty is a national mission; calls on the Scottish Government to double the Scottish Child Payment within the next financial year; notes with concern the recent figures that show that 5,000 families have been living in temporary accommodation for at least a year; further notes that an Audit Scotland report released in March 2021 exposed the lack of progress that has been made in closing the poverty-related attainment gap and calls on the Scottish Government to do more to prioritise young people's education; notes the recommendations of the Independent Care Review and calls on the Scottish Government to set out in more detail how it plans to implement The Promise Scotland; calls on the Scottish Government to implement a national minimum allowance for foster carers, as has been previously committed to; welcomes the doubling of the Carer's Allowance

Supplement this year, but regrets that the Scottish Government will not take control of all devolved benefit powers until 2025”.

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 33, Against 65, Abstentions 20).

Pam Duncan-Glancy moved amendment S6M-01248.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-01248 in the name of Shona Robison (A Land of Opportunity- Supporting a Fairer and More Equal Society), leave out from first “welcomes” to “affordable home; welcomes” and insert “notes the programme of work laid out in the Programme for Government to create a fairer society; agrees that tackling child poverty is a national mission and calls on the Scottish Government to immediately double the Scottish Child Payment and then double it again to £40 per week in 2022-23 for all children under 16 in order to meet the interim target of child poverty levels of 18% in 2023-24, as agreed by this Parliament; notes that the Programme for Government has committed to increasing access to advice services to maximise incomes, expanding free school meals provision, new statutory guidance to reduce the costs of school uniforms, supporting working parents with a system of wraparound childcare for school-age children and an investment of £1 billion over the current parliamentary session to tackle the poverty-related attainment gap; further notes the Scottish Government's commitment to expand early learning and childcare to one- and two-year-olds, starting with those from low-income households; recognises the continuation of the social security programme, including the doubling of Carer's Allowance Supplement this year and the introduction of new disability benefits; acknowledges the programme of work that contributes to ensuring that everyone has the right to a safe warm affordable home; notes”.

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 25, Against 93, Abstentions 0).

The motion was then agreed to ((DT) by division: For 67, Against 30, Abstentions 20).

6. Social Security (Up-rating of Benefits) Bill - UK Legislation: The Minister for Social Security and Local Government (Ben Macpherson) moved S6M-01243— That the Parliament agrees that the relevant provisions of the Social Security (Up-rating of Benefits) Bill, introduced in the House of Commons on 8 September 2021, relating to Industrial Death Benefit, so far as these matters fall within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament, or executive competence of Scottish Ministers should be considered by the UK Parliament.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

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

The meeting closed at 5.20 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
16 September 2021

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 16 September 2021—

COVID-19 Recovery Committee, 3rd Report, 2021 (Session 6): Subordinate legislation considered by the Committee on 16 September 2021 (SP Paper 12)

New Subordinate Legislation

Made Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 16 September 2021 and is subject to the made affirmative procedure—

Health Protection (Coronavirus) (International Travel and Operator Liability) (Scotland) Regulations 2021 (SSI 2021/322)
laid under section 122(6) and (7) of the Public Health etc. (Scotland) Act 2008 and paragraph 6(2) and (3) of schedule 19 of the Coronavirus Act 2020

Laid Only Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 16 September 2021 and is not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Act of Adjournal (Criminal Procedure Rules 1996 Amendment) (Extradition) 2021 (SSI 2021/316)
laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 16 September 2021 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Scottish Human Rights Commission Annual Report and Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 March 2021 SG/2021/243 laid under paragraph 15(1) of Schedule 1 to the Scottish Commission for Human Rights Act 2006 and Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

The Scottish Commission on Social Security report on the Winter Heating Assistance for Children and Young People (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2021 SCoSS/2021/04 laid under Security under 97(8)(a)(ii) of the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018

The Scottish National Investment Bank Annual Report and Accounts 2021
SG/2021/227 laid under section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability
(Scotland) Act 2000

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