



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 1, No. 22, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 2 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 Ministers.
- 2. First Minister's Questions:** Questions were answered by the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon).
- 3. Our Factory, Our Future, the Fight to Save McVitie's at Tollcross, Glasgow:** The Parliament debated S6M-00275 in the name of Paul Sweeney—That the Parliament condemns the proposals from Pladis to close the McVitie's Victoria Biscuit Works in Tollcross, in the east end of Glasgow; understands that the proposed closure would put some 500 jobs in the area at risk of redundancy; recognises what it sees as the critical impact that closing the factory would have on workers as well as the community in the east end, which it has served since 1925; recognises the cultural significance of McVitie's which is an iconic Scottish brand dating back to 1830; notes the view that there are viable options to avert complete closure, including the re-fitting or re-location of the site, and that these could be given careful consideration in order to maintain and grow production and associated jobs in Scotland; commends the efforts of McVitie's workers and their trade unions, GMB Scotland and Unite, which have organised to oppose the closure proposals, including the creation of a petition, which, it understands has garnered the support of 50,000 people from the area, and notes the call for decisive action to be taken prevent absolute closure in line with the demands of the Save The Jobs campaign.
- 4. Portfolio Questions:** Questions on Rural Affairs and Islands were answered by a Cabinet Secretary.

**5. Supporting the People of Afghanistan:** The Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External Affairs and Culture (Angus Robertson) moved S6M-01003— That the Parliament records its alarm at the humanitarian and human rights crisis in Afghanistan following the return of the Taliban; further records its deep concern about the threat to life, liberty, equality, and human rights to all in Afghanistan and, in particular, for women and girls and minority communities; commends the Armed Forces, service personnel, and humanitarian agencies involved in supporting people during the evacuation; notes the UK's long history of involvement with, and intervention in, Afghanistan, and, in consequence, the obligation that the UK has to assist and support all those who are at risk of persecution or mistreatment as a result of the current crisis; recognises the lead role internationally that the UK Government must play in ensuring that aid continues to reach those who need it most and condemns the reduction in international aid by the UK Government from 0.7% of Gross National Income to 0.5%; urges the UK Government to ensure that those Afghans who have worked to provide critical aid assistance, uphold democracy, human rights and the rule of law in Afghanistan, can be allowed to settle in the UK alongside those who are at risk of violence and persecution as outlined in the UN Refugee Convention, and recognises that Scotland has a duty to play a full role in assisting the resettlement and relocation of Afghans at risk and providing humanitarian assistance, and that anyone settling in Scotland will be welcome members of the community.

Donald Cameron moved amendment S6M-01003.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-01003 in the name of Angus Robertson (Supporting the People of Afghanistan), leave out from “, in consequence” to “UN Refugee Convention” and insert “acknowledges the significant effort and sacrifices made by the UK armed forces, including the 457 personnel who lost their lives and the 2,200 personnel who were injured, and the Afghan people, in ensuring relative stability in Afghanistan over the course of the last 20 years; welcomes the announcement of Operation Warm Welcome by the UK Government, which seeks to ensure that those arriving from Afghanistan to the UK have the opportunity to rebuild their lives, find work, seek education and become part of their local communities; acknowledges that the UK Government has committed £200 million to meet the cost of the first year of the Afghanistan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme, which aims to welcome up to 20,000 Afghans; understands that the UK Government has also committed £2.7 million to additional mental health support for veterans as part of Operation Courage; calls on the UK Government to reinstate its long-term financial commitment to international aid at 0.7% of Gross National Income as soon as is practicably possible”.

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 29, Against 93, Abstentions 0).

Sarah Boyack moved amendment S6M-01003.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-01003 in the name of Angus Robertson (Supporting the People of Afghanistan), insert at end “, and recognises the

importance of Scottish local authorities, community organisations and individual citizens in helping ensure a successful transition for every refugee.”

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

Alex Cole-Hamilton moved amendment S6M-01003.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-01003 in the name of Angus Robertson (Supporting the People of Afghanistan), insert at end “; urges the UK Government to expand urgently its plans for the resettlement of 20,000 Afghan refugees, with a new plan to provide immediate sanctuary to people fleeing persecution, oppression and terror, instead of spreading assistance over five years; believes that the resettlement of 20,000 people should be the starting point instead of the final target, and urges the Scottish Government, in light of the immediate human need, to share proactively evidence of the number that it can resettle and provide effective support and services to, including the capacity to provide physical and mental healthcare, housing, guardians, translators and education, providing guarantees that the Scottish Government and public authorities across Scotland are ready to assist, in order to help persuade the UK Government to lift the overall cap and enable Scotland to provide sanctuary to thousands.”

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 93, Against 29, Abstentions 0).

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 93, Against 29, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved— That the Parliament records its alarm at the humanitarian and human rights crisis in Afghanistan following the return of the Taliban; further records its deep concern about the threat to life, liberty, equality, and human rights to all in Afghanistan and, in particular, for women and girls and minority communities; commends the Armed Forces, service personnel, and humanitarian agencies involved in supporting people during the evacuation; notes the UK's long history of involvement with, and intervention in, Afghanistan, and, in consequence, the obligation that the UK has to assist and support all those who are at risk of persecution or mistreatment as a result of the current crisis; recognises the lead role internationally that the UK Government must play in ensuring that aid continues to reach those who need it most and condemns the reduction in international aid by the UK Government from 0.7% of Gross National Income to 0.5%; urges the UK Government to ensure that those Afghans who have worked to provide critical aid assistance, uphold democracy, human rights and the rule of law in Afghanistan, can be allowed to settle in the UK alongside those who are at risk of violence and persecution as outlined in the UN Refugee Convention; recognises that Scotland has a duty to play a full role in assisting the resettlement and relocation of Afghans at risk and providing humanitarian assistance, and that anyone settling in Scotland will be welcome members of the community; recognises the importance of Scottish local authorities, community organisations and individual citizens in helping ensure a successful transition for every refugee; urges the UK Government to expand urgently its plans for the resettlement of 20,000 Afghan refugees, with a new plan to provide immediate sanctuary to people fleeing persecution, oppression and terror, instead of spreading assistance over five

years; believes that the resettlement of 20,000 people should be the starting point instead of the final target, and urges the Scottish Government, in light of the immediate human need, to share proactively evidence of the number that it can resettle and provide effective support and services to, including the capacity to provide physical and mental healthcare, housing, guardians, translators and education, providing guarantees that the Scottish Government and public authorities across Scotland are ready to assist, in order to help persuade the UK Government to lift the overall cap and enable Scotland to provide sanctuary to thousands.

**6. Decision Time:** The Parliament took decisions on item 5 as noted above.

The meeting closed at 5.12 pm.

**David McGill**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
2 September 2021

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

**Legislative Consent Memorandum**

The following memorandum was lodged on 2 September 2021—

Shirley-Anne Somerville, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills: Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Advanced Research and Invention Agency Bill (UK Parliament legislation) (LCM-S6-6)

**New Subordinate Legislation**

**Instruments/Documents Subject to Approval**

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 2 September 2021 and are subject to approval by resolution of the Parliament—

Code of Conduct for Councillors (SG/2021/229)  
laid under section 1(5) of the Ethical Standards in Public Life etc. (Scotland) Act 2000

Model Code of Conduct for Members of Devolved Public Bodies (SG/2021/230)  
laid under section 2(4) of the Ethical Standards in Public Life Etc. (Scotland) Act 2000

**Made Affirmative Instruments**

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 2 September 2021 and is subject to the made affirmative procedure—

Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Requirements) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2021 (SSI 2021/299)  
laid under paragraph 6(3) of schedule 19 of the Coronavirus Act 2020

**Negative Instruments**

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 2 September 2021 and is subject to the negative procedure—

Official Controls (Transitional Staging Period) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2021 (SSI 2021/297)  
laid under Article 144(5) of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 and paragraph 1(7) of schedule 7 of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018

**Other Documents**

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 2 September 2021 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**Second Annual Progress Report on Getting the best from our land – A Land Use Strategy for Scotland 2016-2021 SG/2021/215** laid under Section 37A of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

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