



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 1, No. 32, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 28 September 2021

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

- 1. Time for Reflection:** Rev Elsie Macrae, Minister, St Andrew's Parish Church (linked with Kirkpatrick Juxta and Wamphray Parish Churches), Moffat, led Time for Reflection.
- 2. Topical Questions:** Questions were answered by Cabinet Secretaries.
- 3. Ministerial Statement:** The First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon) made a statement and answered questions on COVID-19 Update.
- 4. Keeping the Lifeline - A Call to Cancel the Cut to Universal Credit:** The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government (Shona Robison) moved S6M-01405—That the Parliament agrees, along with opposition parties in the UK Parliament, that the UK Government's planned reduction to universal credit should be reversed; recognises the cross-party efforts of opposition parties in the UK Parliament and the social security committees of each of the four nations' parliaments and assembly in this aim; notes Scottish Government analysis that the reduction of universal credit could reduce welfare expenditure in Scotland by £461 million a year by 2023-24 and push 60,000 people, including 20,000 children, into poverty; agrees that the inadequacy of the payment is just one of many issues with universal credit, alongside the two-child cap and the abhorrent so-called "rape clause", the five-week wait for a first payment, the benefit sanctions regime and the so-called "bedroom tax"; believes that this reflects the UK Government's uncompassionate approach to welfare, which has been challenged by opposition parties across the UK, and acknowledges Scotland's human rights-based approach to social security.

Miles Briggs moved amendment S6M-01405.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-01405 in the name of Shona Robison (Keeping the Lifeline - A Call to Cancel the Cut to Universal Credit), leave out from first “agrees” to end and insert “welcomes the support that universal credit has provided to half a million people in Scotland throughout the COVID-19 pandemic; further welcomes the decision to extend the temporary £20 per week uplift for six months during the height of the pandemic, as called for by parties across the Scottish Parliament; believes that, with the removal of most restrictions, this is the right time for the uplift to be reviewed; notes that the introduction of universal credit has been a key driver of employment and contributed to employment levels rising to record levels before the pandemic; further notes that the UK's unemployment rate has now fallen for six consecutive months; welcomes that the UK Government's Kickstart Scheme has already helped 63,000 young people into new positions; notes that UK Government spending during the pandemic has delivered an additional £14.5 billion for the Scottish Government, and calls on the Scottish Government to work constructively with the UK Government in the pursuit of a jobs-led recovery from the pandemic.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 28, Against 88, Abstentions 0).

The motion was then agreed to ((DT) by division: For 88, Against 28, Abstentions 0).

5. Environmental Standards Scotland: Appointment of the Chief Executive: The Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport (Michael Matheson) moved S6M-01397—That the Parliament welcomes the statutory vesting of Environmental Standards Scotland, the new environmental governance body for Scotland, which will ensure that high standards of environmental governance are maintained, and approves the Scottish Ministers' appointment of Brendan Callaghan as the first chief executive of Environmental Standards Scotland, as required by the UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Continuity) (Scotland) Act 2021, and as communicated to the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee by correspondence on 6 September 2021 by the Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

6. Revision to Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-01431—That the Parliament agrees to the following revision to the programme of business for Thursday 30 September 2021—

delete

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Scotland in the World - Championing Progressive Values

and insert

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Impact of Brexit on Scotland's Supply Chain and Labour Market

The motion was agreed to.

7. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-01432—That the Parliament agrees that the European Union and European Atomic Energy Community (Immunities and Privileges) (Scotland) Order 2021 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

8. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-01433—That the Parliament agrees that the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Immunities and Privileges) (Scotland) Order 2021 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

9. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 4, 5, 7 and 8 as noted above.

10. Ambulance Services Across Scotland: The Parliament debated S6M-01136 in the name of Jamie Halcro Johnston—That the Parliament commends the efforts of hard-working ambulance staff over the challenging period since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic; recognises what it sees as the importance of an effective ambulance service to rural communities and, in particular, to those remote communities in the Highlands and Islands region; considers that issues exist around staffing and recruiting of staff across Scotland; believes that a number of performance indicators for the Scottish Ambulance Service have been missed over this period, and acknowledges the view that there is a need for an effective strategic plan to support the Service to recover as Scotland emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The meeting closed at 6.00 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
28 September 2021

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 24 September 2021—

Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee, 1st Report, 2021
(Session 6): The Children's Legal Assistance (Miscellaneous Amendments
and Consequential Provisions) (Scotland) Regulations 2021 [draft] (SP Paper
17)

New Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 27 September 2021
and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Budget (Scotland) Act 2021 Amendment Regulations 2021 [draft]
laid under section 7(2) of the Budget (Scotland) Act 2021

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 28 September 2021
and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

First-tier Tribunal for Scotland (Chambers) Amendment Regulations 2021 [draft]
laid under section 79(2)(a) of the Tribunals (Scotland) Act 2014

Negative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 24 September 2021
and is subject to the negative procedure—

National Health Service (Free Prescriptions and Charges for Drugs and Appliances)
(Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2021 (SSI 2021/335)
laid under section 105(2) of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 27 September 2021
and is subject to the negative procedure—

Fish Farming Code of Practice (Scotland) Order 2021 (SSI 2021/340)
laid under section 43(2) of the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2007

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 28 September 2021
and are subject to the negative procedure—

Scottish Tribunals (Eligibility for Appointment) Amendment Regulations 2021 (SSI
2021/341)
laid under section 79(3) of the Tribunals (Scotland) Act 2014

Official Controls (Transitional Staging Period) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) (No. 2) Regulations 2021 (SSI 2021/342)
laid under paragraph 1(7) of schedule 7 of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018

Laid Only Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 24 September 2021 and is not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Fuel Poverty (Targets, Definition and Strategy) (Scotland) Act 2019 (Commencement No. 2) Regulations 2021 (SSI 2021/332 (C. 22))
laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 27 September 2021 and are not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Social Security Administration and Tribunal Membership (Scotland) Act 2020 (Commencement No. 3) Regulations 2021 (SSI 2021/338 (C. 23))
laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

Children (Scotland) Act 2020 (Commencement No. 2) Regulations 2021 (SSI 2021/339 (C. 24))
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 27 September 2021 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Scotland's Budget Documents: The 2021-22 Autumn Budget Revision to the Budget (Scotland) Act for the year ending 31 March 2022 SG/2021/231 laid at the request of a member of the Scottish Government and not under any laying power

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