



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 2, No. 11, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 9 June 2022

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

The meeting opened at 11:40am.

- 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. NHS Staff Recruitment and Retention:** The Parliament debated S6M-04464 in the name of Rhoda Grant— That the Parliament notes the reported ongoing issues with staff recruitment in NHS Highland, while it attempts to expand its services by providing a National Treatment Centre in Inverness and to support NHS Grampian by providing obstetric services for Moray; considers that the Highlands and Islands has a world-class university in the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI); understands that UHI previously carried out successful training of midwifery staff for the Highlands and Islands region to meet staffing demand as part of a two-year pilot in response to a specific workforce need; further understands that funding for this programme has now been moved to Edinburgh Napier University to cover the whole of Scotland; notes the view that NHS staff should be trained close to home in order to enhance recruitment and retention of staff, and further notes the call, therefore, for the Scottish Government to develop training for NHS staff at the University of the Highlands and Islands.
- 4. Committee Meeting Times:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-04895—That the Parliament agrees that, under Rule 12.3.3B of Standing Orders, the COVID-19

Recovery Committee, can meet, if necessary, at the same time as a meeting of the Parliament between 5.00 pm and 6.00 pm on Thursday 9 June 2022.

The motion was agreed to.

5. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Rural Affairs and Islands were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and a Minister.

6. Ministerial Statement: The Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External Affairs and Culture (Angus Robertson) made a statement and answered questions on Scotland's Census 2022.

7. Ministerial Statement: The Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery (John Swinney) made a statement and answered questions on Scottish COVID-19 Inquiry.

8. Scottish Local Government Elections (Candidacy Rights of Foreign Nationals) Bill - Stage 3: The Presiding Officer determined, under Rule 9.8.5BA, that, in her view, no provision of the Scottish Local Government Elections (Candidacy Rights of Foreign Nationals) Bill related to a protected subject-matter.

9. Scottish Local Government Elections (Candidacy Rights of Foreign Nationals) Bill: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam) moved S6M-04818—That the Parliament agrees that the Scottish Local Government Elections (Candidacy Rights of Foreign Nationals) Bill be passed.

After debate, the motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 116, Against 0, Abstentions 0).

10. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on item 9 as noted above.

11. Making Scotland Hostile to Trafficking and a Safe Place for Ukrainian Refugees: The Parliament debated S6M-04703 in the name of Bill Kidd— That the Parliament welcomes the launch of the Hope for Justice and anti-trafficking partners' website, Ukrainians Welcome, which is aimed at protecting refugees in the UK against modern slavery, and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe's (OSCE) new recommendations on mitigating the risks of trafficking, following the crisis in Ukraine, as it considers refugees are particularly vulnerable to trafficking for sexual exploitation and other forms of modern slavery; understands that the Scottish Government has committed to criminalising sex buyers, addressing the reported impunity of sex buyers in exploiting vulnerable women and children, and, through criminalisation, making Scotland hostile to human traffickers; considers that Baroness Helena Kennedy QC's report on Misogyny and Criminal Justice in Scotland affirms the understanding of commercial sexual exploitation, including pornography, prostitution and trafficking, as "violence against women and girls"; recognises the OSCE's reported findings that internet searches for Ukrainian women for sale for sexual exploitation has increased by between 200% to 600% across multiple countries in Europe since the Ukrainian refugee crisis started, and that, in the UK, internet searches for Ukrainian women has increased by 669%, compared with March 2021; considers that the criminalisation of sex buyers in Scotland would

tackle the demand that fosters trafficking and respond to Palermo protocol commitments; commends the efforts of anti-trafficking organisations, such as International Justice Mission, which presented information to the Cross-Party Group on Human Trafficking on the work that it has been doing to prevent human trafficking occurring at the Romanian-Ukrainian border since the war in Ukraine started, and A21, which it understands is safely housing Ukrainian survivors of sex trafficking and runs trafficking awareness campaigns across Europe; considers that such examples show the success that is possible when authorities and charities work collaboratively to warn refugees of the signs of human traffickers and provide practical assistance to avoid refugees taking up unsafe offers of accommodation or transport; believes that vulnerability to trafficking increases when refugees are in transit or when financial resources reduce over time, and recognises what it sees as the invaluable work of individual sponsors, community groups and local organisations in welcoming refugees to Glasgow and the rest of Scotland, and ensuring that they are provided with the practical and emotional support needed to begin to find refuge and safety as they rebuild their lives.

The meeting closed at 5.54 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
9 June 2022

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 9 June 2022—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 35th Report, 2022 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 7 June 2022 (SP Paper 183)

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 9 June 2022 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Age of Criminal Responsibility (Reports on Use of Places of Safety) (Scotland) Regulations 2022 [draft]
laid under section 82(3)(d) of the Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Act 2019

Negative Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 9 June 2022 and are subject to the negative procedure—

Gender Recognition (Marriage and Civil Partnership Registration) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2022 (SSI 2022/201)
laid under section 28(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

Gender Recognition (Marriage and Civil Partnership Registration) (Modification) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2022 (SSI 2022/202)
laid under section 28(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 9 June 2022 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Coronavirus (Scotland) (No.2) Act 2020: Twelfth report on the Scottish Ministers' responses to requests for information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 SG/2022/114 laid under paragraph 12 of Schedule 4 to the Coronavirus (Scotland) (No.2) Act 2020

Audit Scotland Annual report and accounts 2021/22 year ended 31 March 2022 and independent auditor's report SP Paper 199 laid under section 25(6) of the

Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

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