



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 1, No. 92, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 16 March 2022

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

- 1. Portfolio Questions:** Questions on Justice and Veterans, and then Finance and the Economy were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.
- 2. Ministerial Statement:** The First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon) made a statement and answered questions on Update on Refugees from Ukraine.
- 3. A Person-centred, Trauma-informed Public Health Approach to Substance Use in the Justice System:** The Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Veterans (Keith Brown) moved S6M-03625—That the Parliament believes that every drug-related death is unacceptable and that drugs deaths are a public health emergency; commits to save and improve lives through the National Mission and supports the implementation of the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) standards; agrees with the Scottish Government’s long-term aim that imprisonment should be reserved for individuals who pose a risk of serious harm; determines that access to high-quality drug treatment, rehabilitation and recovery services at appropriate points in the justice system, including in prison and police care, is vital; recognises the stigma associated with services and service users and the need to tackle this; supports the transformation of community justice services such as bail supervision and community sentences; reinforces the commitment to continue to improve support for people leaving prison, including access to community services upon liberation, and throughcare; welcomes the decision by the Chief Constable to roll out the carriage of naloxone across Police Scotland and the support of officers to help preserve life and keep people safe; supports the exploration of options to deliver safer drug consumption facilities, within the existing legal framework, to help save lives, and agrees that the development of

treatment targets will drive forward the expansion of protective treatment services alongside investment, and that further consultation is needed to gauge public attitudes and explore the limitations of a public health response restricted by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

Russell Findlay moved amendment S6M-03625.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-03625 in the name of Keith Brown (A Person-centred, Trauma-informed Public Health Approach to Substance Use in the Justice System), leave out from “drugs deaths” to end and insert “the high number of drug deaths in Scotland is a national shame; regrets that drug-related deaths are 3.5 times that of the UK as a whole; notes with concern that spending on drug and alcohol services is difficult to track and needs to be more transparent; agrees with Audit Scotland that more focus is needed on addressing the root causes of drug and alcohol dependency; supports Audit Scotland’s conclusion that more could be done to join up work and funding streams to demonstrate that they are collectively improving outcomes; agrees that the possession of class A drugs is a serious offence and should not be dealt with through warnings as it makes the police’s job tackling drug dealing more difficult; reinforces the commitment to continue to improve support for people leaving prison, including access to community services upon liberation, and throughcare; welcomes the decision by the Chief Constable to roll out the carriage of naloxone across Police Scotland and the support of officers to help preserve life and keep people safe; recognises that the Scottish Government’s effective decriminalisation of class B and C drugs in 2016-17 has resulted in an increase in the number caught possessing such drugs; understands that admissions to psychiatric hospitals among cannabis users has soared since the effective decriminalisation of that drug; determines that access to high-quality drug treatment, rehabilitation and recovery services at appropriate points in the justice system, including in prison and police care, is vital; welcomes Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party proposals for a Right to Recovery Bill, which would provide a statutory right to addiction and recovery treatment services; supports the principle that individuals seeking addiction and/or substance misuse treatment should be able to quickly access their preferred treatment option, and regrets the Scottish Government’s refusal to participate in Project ADDER, which is designed to tackle addiction and supply of illegal substances.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 29, Against 86, Abstentions 0).

Claire Baker moved amendment S6M-03625.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-03625 in the name of Keith Brown (A Person-centred, Trauma-informed Public Health Approach to Substance Use in the Justice System), leave out from “, and that further consultation” to end and insert “; further agrees that sufficient progress will not be made until the preventative policies are backed by sufficient investment and the Scottish Government addresses Scotland’s socioeconomic inequalities; considers that efforts to support and provide treatment to prisoners who experience problematic drug use have been undermined by ongoing overcrowding and

pressures facing healthcare staff in prisons; notes the positive impacts made by the specialist drug court in Glasgow, and calls on the Scottish Government to expand access to these courts across Scotland.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 21, Against 94, Abstentions 0).

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 86, Against 29, Abstentions 0).

**4. Business Programme:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-03639—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 22 March 2022

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Topical Questions (if selected)

*followed by* Stage 1 Debate: Good Food Nation (Scotland) Bill

*followed by* Committee Announcements

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members’ Business

Wednesday 23 March 2022

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Covid Recovery and Parliamentary Business; Net Zero, Energy and Transport

*followed by* Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party Business

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Approval of SSIs (if required)

5.10 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members’ Business

Thursday 24 March 2022

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister’s Questions

*followed by* Members’ Business

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Rural Affairs and Islands

*followed by* Ministerial Statement: A Retail Strategy for Scotland

*followed by* Scottish Government Debate: Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2022-26

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 29 March 2022

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Topical Questions (if selected)

*followed by* Health, Social Care and Sport Committee Debate: Perinatal Mental Health

*followed by* Stage 1 Debate: Scottish Local Government Elections (Candidacy Rights of Foreign Nationals) Bill

*followed by* Committee Announcements

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Wednesday 30 March 2022

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Health and Social Care; Social Justice, Housing and Local Government

*followed by* Scottish Government Business

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Approval of SSIs (if required)

5.00 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Thursday 31 March 2022

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

*followed by* Members' Business

2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.30 pm Portfolio Questions: Constitution, External Affairs and Culture

*followed by* Stage 1 Debate: Miners' Strike (Pardons) (Scotland) Bill

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

(b) that, for the purposes of Portfolio Questions in the week beginning 21 March 2022, in rule 13.7.3, after the word “except” the words “to the extent to which the Presiding Officer considers that the questions are on the same or similar subject matter or” are inserted.

The motion was agreed to.

**5. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-03640—That the Parliament agrees that the Provision of Early Learning and Childcare (Specified Children) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2022 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**6. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-03641—That the Parliament agrees that the Scottish Landfill Tax (Standard Rate and Lower Rate) Order 2022 (SSI 2022/46) be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**7. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-03642—That the Parliament agrees that the Legal Aid and Advice and Assistance (Financial Limit) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2022 [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-03643—That the Parliament agrees that the National Bus Travel Concession Schemes (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Order 2022 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**9. Designation of Lead Committee:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-03644—That the Parliament agrees that the Education, Children and Young People Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the legislative consent memorandum in relation to the British Sign Language Bill (UK Legislation).

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**10. Decision Time:** The Parliament took decisions on items 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 as noted above.

**11. Tackling Dog Theft:** The Parliament debated S6M-02745 in the name of Maurice Golden—That the Parliament is concerned by reports that dog thefts have risen sharply during the COVID-19 pandemic, including across the North East Scotland region; understands that stealing a dog is not currently a specific offence in Scotland but is grouped along with other non-specific thefts, that there is no requirement to take into account the impact such thefts have on the wellbeing of either animal or owners, and that there is no requirement to collect specific information on dog theft offences, which it considers could aid prevention, and recognises the view regarding the merit of a specific offence of dog theft to address these issues.

The meeting closed at 6.10 pm.

**David McGill**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
16 March 2022

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

**Committee Reports**

The following reports were published on 16 March 2022—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 18th Report, 2022 (Session 6):  
Scottish Local Government Elections (Candidacy Rights of Foreign Nationals)  
Bill: Stage 1 (SP Paper 136)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 19th Report, 2022 (Session 6):  
Hunting with Dogs (Scotland) Bill: Stage 1 (SP Paper 139)

**Subordinate Legislation**

**Laid Only Instruments**

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 16 March 2022 and is not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Requirements) (Scotland) Revocation Regulations  
2022 (SSI 2022/92)  
laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland)  
Act 2010

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