



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 1, No. 95, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 23 March 2022

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

- 1. Portfolio Questions:** Questions on Covid-19 Recovery and Parliamentary Business, and then Net Zero, Energy and Transport were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.
- 2. Ministerial Statement:** The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy (Kate Forbes) made a statement and answered questions on Ferguson Marine Update.
- 3. Scotland's Ferries:** Graham Simpson moved S6M-03712—That the Parliament believes that islanders, island economies and all those reliant on vital ferry links are being severely let down by the failure to deliver a resilient ferry fleet; calls on the Scottish Government to increase funding to build new ferries in the next five years and to commit to spending £1.4 billion in the next 10 years in order to bring down the average age of ferries and to upgrade ports; is deeply alarmed and disappointed with the late arrival of new operational vessels for the Clyde and Hebridean routes; understands that the construction of vessels 801 and 802, which were due to be delivered in May and July 2018 respectively, are severely delayed; notes with disappointment that the Scottish Government has yet to confirm a revised timetable for the completion of vessels 801 and 802, following the identification of issues with the cabling; believes that the Scottish Government has made insufficient progress on acting on the recommendations set out in the report by the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee, in Session 5, on ferry construction and procurement; calls upon the Scottish Government to publish an unredacted copy of the Project Neptune report compiled by Ernst and Young, and further calls for a full public inquiry into the

Scottish Government's failure to renew the ageing ferry network based on a workable ferries plan.

The Minister for Transport (Jenny Gilruth) moved amendment S6M-03712.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-03712 in the name of Graham Simpson (Scotland's Ferries), leave out from "believes that islanders" to end and insert "agrees that ferry services provide an essential lifeline to island and remote rural communities and their economies; recognises that, through adverse weather events and COVID-19 causing many cancellations on the Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services routes, this has been a challenging winter for island residents, businesses and communities; commends the vessel masters for the key role that they are trained to play in ensuring people's and vessels' safety with the decisions that they make about how and when ferries can sail; acknowledges that technical issues causing some vessels to be further laid up have added to people's frustrations and inconvenience; notes that, since 2007, over £2 billion has been invested in service contracts, new vessels and infrastructure and that, in the current five-year period, a further £580 million has been committed, enabling harbour investments, two new vessels for Islay to be built and the purchase of the MV Loch Frisa; further notes the Scottish Government commitment to publish the Islands Connectivity Plan by the end of 2022; welcomes that the Scottish Government saved Ferguson Marine, the last commercial shipyard on the Clyde, from closure, rescuing more than 300 jobs and ensuring that two new ferry vessels will be delivered, while noting the planned revised timetable and costs for completion of these two vessels; condemns the recent actions by P&O Ferries in the strongest possible terms, and makes clear the Scottish Government's support for P&O Ferries employees, and agrees that "fire and rehire" practices should be outlawed and have no place in a fairer, greener Scotland."

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 62, Against 50, Abstentions 0).

Neil Bibby moved amendment S6M-03712.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-03712 in the name of Graham Simpson (Scotland's Ferries), insert at end "; considers that a Scottish Government apology should be issued to island communities and the Ferguson Marine workforce, who have been affected by failures in the procurement and delivery of vessels 801 and 802; calls on the First Minister to lead government efforts to secure the completion of vessels 801 and 802 by taking ministerial responsibility for government investments in Ferguson Marine; believes that a national ferry building and procurement programme, developed in consultation with trade unions, should create new opportunities for Ferguson Marine to secure ferry contracts, and calls on the Scottish Government to protect jobs and promote sustainable growth and fair work in Scotland's marine economy."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 50, Against 62, Abstentions 0).

The motion, as amended, was then agreed to ((DT) by division: For 79, Against 32, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament agrees that ferry services provide an essential lifeline to island and remote rural communities and their economies; recognises that, through adverse weather events and COVID-19 causing many cancellations on the Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services routes, this has been a challenging winter for island residents, businesses and communities; commends the vessel masters for the key role that they are trained to play in ensuring people's and vessels' safety with the decisions that they make about how and when ferries can sail; acknowledges that technical issues causing some vessels to be further laid up have added to people's frustrations and inconvenience; notes that, since 2007, over £2 billion has been invested in service contracts, new vessels and infrastructure and that, in the current five-year period, a further £580 million has been committed, enabling harbour investments, two new vessels for Islay to be built and the purchase of the MV Loch Frisa; further notes the Scottish Government commitment to publish the Islands Connectivity Plan by the end of 2022; welcomes that the Scottish Government saved Ferguson Marine, the last commercial shipyard on the Clyde, from closure, rescuing more than 300 jobs and ensuring that two new ferry vessels will be delivered, while noting the planned revised timetable and costs for completion of these two vessels; condemns the recent actions by P&O Ferries in the strongest possible terms, and makes clear the Scottish Government's support for P&O Ferries employees, and agrees that "fire and rehire" practices should be outlawed and have no place in a fairer, greener Scotland.

4. Revision to Business: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-03768—That the Parliament agrees to the following revisions to the programme of business for Thursday 24 March 2022—

after

followed by Ministerial Statement: A Retail Strategy for Scotland

insert

followed by Ministerial Statement: NHS Scotland Pandemic Pressures

after

followed by Legislative Consent Motion: Building Safety Bill - UK Legislation

insert

followed by Financial Resolution: Good Food Nation (Scotland) Bill

delete

5.00 pm Decision Time

and insert

5.30 pm Decision Time

The motion was agreed to.

5. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-03746—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

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

followed by First Minister's Statement: COVID-19 Update

followed by Portfolio Questions: Health and Social Care; Social Justice, Housing and Local Government

followed by Ministerial Statement: Moray Maternity Services

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Keeping the Promise Implementation Plan

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 Ministerial Statement: Scotland's Vision for Trade - Annual Report

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

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 19 April 2022

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee Debate: National Planning Framework 4

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 20 April 2022

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Justice and Veterans; Finance and the Economy

followed by Scottish Liberal Democrats 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 21 April 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: Education and Skills

followed by Scottish Government Business

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

(b) that, for the purposes of Portfolio Questions in the week beginning 28 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.

6. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-03750—That the Parliament agrees that the Social Security Up-rating (Scotland) Order 2022 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 108, Against 0, Abstentions 4).

7. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-03747—That the Parliament agrees that the Local Authority (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Scotland) (Coronavirus) 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-03748—That the Parliament agrees that the Budget (Scotland) Act 2021 Amendment Regulations 2022 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

9. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-03749—That the Parliament agrees that the Non-Domestic Rates (Valuation Roll) (Modification) (Scotland) Regulations 2022 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

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

11. Industrial Relations in the College Sector: The Parliament debated S6M-03609 in the name of Ross Greer—That the Parliament is concerned by the record of industrial relations in the college sector over the last decade; understands that nationwide industrial action by lecturers has taken place in six of the last eight years, largely due to the perceived failure to implement previous agreements on pay, conditions and status; further understands that one such example of industrial action was the “fire and rehire” incident at Forth Valley College in 2021, which, it believes, became the catalyst for a national strike and resulted in the affected lecturers being reinstated to their previous positions; notes with regret reports that the nationally agreed disputes resolution process is not yet in place at all colleges; believes that staff feel their extensive efforts to support students throughout the COVID19 pandemic have not been recognised and that this, in combination with frustration over pay awards to senior management, has left many feeling demotivated; recognises what it sees as the pivotal role played by college teaching and support staff throughout the pandemic, and believes that colleges, including those in the West of Scotland, have a

critical role to play in Scotland's economic recovery from COVID-19, efforts to tackle the climate emergency, and the eradication of child poverty.

The meeting closed at 6.37 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
23 March 2022

Appendix

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

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 23 March 2022 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Twelfth Annual Report on the Operation of Section 72 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 SG/2022/43 laid under Section 73 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

Scottish Public Services Ombudsman: Compendium Report of Discontinued Compendium of Case Reports for March 2022 SPSO/2022/03 laid under Sections 15(1) and 15(1A) of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002

The Scottish Commission on Social Security: scrutiny report on The Adult Disability Payment (Transitional Provisions) (Scotland) Regulations 2022 SCoSS/2022/02 laid under 97(8)(a)(ii) of the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018

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