



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 2, No. 100, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 2 May 2023

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Time for Reflection: Megan Laird, NDCS Young Changemaker, led Time for Reflection.

2. Revision to Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-08792—That the Parliament agrees to the following revisions to the programme of business for—

(a) Tuesday 2 May 2023—

after

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Tackling Social Isolation and Loneliness

insert

followed by Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee Debate: Standing Order Rule Changes

(b) Thursday 4 May 2023—

delete

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Net Zero and Just Transition

insert

2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.30 pm Portfolio Questions: Net Zero and Just Transition

delete

5.30 pm Decision Time

and insert

5.00 pm Decision Time

The motion was agreed to.

3. Topical Questions: Questions were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and a Minister.

4. Tackling Social Isolation and Loneliness: The Minister for Equalities, Migration and Refugees (Emma Roddick) moved S6M-08758—That the Parliament recognises that social isolation and loneliness can affect anyone at any age or stage of life, but that not everyone is affected equally; acknowledges that the COVID-19 pandemic meant that more people experienced social isolation, and that this was disproportionately felt by disabled people, younger people and single-person households; recognises the action taken by the Scottish Government since its strategy for tackling social isolation and loneliness was published in 2018, including working with young families that are facing adversity, stigma and exclusion, supporting disabled people, carers and grassroots projects to ensure that communities can make a difference on their own terms; believes that preventative action is vital to ensure that the negative mental health consequences are addressed; welcomes the investment that the Scottish Government is making through the three-year, £3.8 million Social Isolation and Loneliness Fund, which will create opportunities for people to connect with one another in Scotland's communities; commends the work of organisations and communities to tackle this issue, and recognises that tackling this public health issue is a collective responsibility and requires a shared commitment across the public, private and third sectors.

Alexander Stewart moved amendment S6M-08758.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-08758 in the name of Emma Roddick (Tackling Social Isolation and Loneliness), insert at end “, and calls on the Scottish Government to ensure that its strategy for tackling isolation focusses on increasing awareness of loneliness, particularly among young people and older people, connecting communities, implementing a national awareness campaign on loneliness and isolation, and supporting innovation.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 50, Against 67, Abstentions 0).

Paul O'Kane moved amendment S6M-08758.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-08758 in the name of Emma Roddick (Tackling Social Isolation and Loneliness), leave out from “welcomes” to end and insert “acknowledges the investment that the Scottish Government is making through the three-year, £3.8 million Social Isolation and Loneliness Fund, which will create opportunities for people to connect with one another in Scotland's communities; commends the work of organisations and communities to tackle this issue; recognises that tackling this public health issue is a collective responsibility and requires a shared commitment across the public, private and third sectors; notes that precarious funding risks the third sector's contribution and ability to deliver vital services for people and communities across Scotland; further notes that this can lead to disconnects between national policy and the implementation of policy at the local level, and understands that a long-term, flexible, sustainable, and accessible approach to funding is central to a sustainable voluntary sector, which can deliver measurable impacts on loneliness and isolation in Scotland.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 52, Against 66, Abstentions 0).

The motion was agreed to (DT).

5. Standing Orders Rule Changes: Martin Whitfield, on behalf of the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee, moved S6M-07078—That the Parliament notes the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee's 9th Report, 2023 (Session 6), Standing Order Rule changes - minor amendments (SP Paper 352), and agrees that the rule changes to Standing Orders set out in the annexe of the report be made with effect from 4 May 2023.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

6. Decision Time: The Parliament took a decision on items 4 and 5 as noted above.

7. Highly Protected Marine Areas: The Parliament debated S6M-08651 in the name of Beatrice Wishart—That the Parliament recognises what it sees as the importance of Scotland's fishing and aquaculture industries to coastal and island communities such as Shetland, as well as the wider Scottish economy; notes that the Scottish Government consultation on Highly Protected Marine Areas, a policy that forms part of the Bute House Agreement, closed on 17 April 2023; further notes that there are different views on Highly Protected Marine Areas and the contribution that they can make to protecting the marine environment; understands that many, including the Scottish Fishermen's Federation, have concerns about these areas and the impact that they will have on the fishing and aquaculture industries, as well as other activity of importance to coastal and island communities and the wider economy; notes the view that work should be done to ensure that all stakeholders

are fully engaged with the process and that local community perspectives are taken into account; further notes stakeholders' reported suggestions that scientific studies and pilot schemes should be considered and evaluated before any Highly Protected Marine Areas are formally designated; notes the view that this work should be carried out as soon as feasible and that any findings from studies or pilot schemes should be shared with all relevant stakeholders, and further notes the view that any work that directly affects coastal and island communities should always be undertaken in partnership with them to ensure that livelihoods are protected.

8. Motion Without Notice: Beatrice Wishart moved without notice that, under Rule 8.14.3, the debate be extended by up to 30 minutes.

The motion was agreed to.

The meeting closed at 6.06 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
2 May 2023

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 27 April 2023—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 28th Report, 2023 (Session 6): Delegated powers provisions in the Moveable Transactions (Scotland) Bill after Stage 2 (SP Paper 356)

The following reports were published on 28 April 2023—

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee, 4th Report, 2023 (Session 6): Stage 1 Report on the Patient Safety Commissioner for Scotland Bill (SP Paper 357)

Social Justice and Social Security Committee, 4th Report, 2023 (Session 6): Stage 1 Report on the Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Bill (SP Paper 359)

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 2 May 2023 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Police Negotiating Board for Scotland (Constitution, Arbitration and Qualifying Cases) Regulations 2023 [draft]
laid under section 125(3A) of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012

Other Documents

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 28 April 2023 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Parole Board for Scotland Annual Report 2021/22 (SG/2023/72) laid under Paragraph 6 of Schedule 2 to the Prisoner and Criminal Proceedings (Scotland) Act 1993

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