



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 2, No. 38, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 2 November 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 Finance and the Economy were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and Ministers.
- 2. Ministerial Statement:** The Deputy First Minister (John Swinney) made a statement and answered questions on Emergency Budget Review.
- 3. National Care Service Viability:** Craig Hoy moved S6M-06523—That the Parliament notes the significant cross-party and cross-sectoral concern about the monumental risks involved in the creation of a National Care Service; warns that the financial memorandum to the Bill estimates that the creation of the service could cost up to £1.3 billion over five years and questions the accuracy of the Scottish Government's estimates currently before the Parliament; raises concern about the rationale for creating a National Care Service through major structural reform at a time when social care is in crisis; acknowledges the considerable concerns from local government, trades unions and other industry stakeholders about the potential negative impacts of centralisation; believes that better value for money and better patient care will be achieved by directing investment into frontline provision and staffing rather than reorganisation, and calls for the creation of a Local Care Service focussed on better local delivery, underpinned by a local care guarantee.

The Minister for Mental Wellbeing and Social Care (Kevin Stewart) moved amendment S6M-06523.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-06523 in the name of Craig Hoy (National Care Service Viability), leave out from "notes" to end and insert "that the experience of the COVID-19 pandemic highlights the imperative for the National Care Service (NCS) to end the postcode lottery in the provision of adult social care; believes that there must be a rights-based, user-led approach to social care with consistent and fair access to high-quality care and support; further believes that the NCS should embed ethical commissioning that promotes fair work and climate change ambitions; recognises that the key consideration is how improvements are made for people who rely on the services of the NCS; welcomes that the NCS will be shaped by co-design and that services will be delivered locally; supports the creation, in line with the recommendation of the Independent Review of Adult Social Care, of a system of national collective bargaining on pay, terms and conditions within the social care sector and for workforce representatives, such as trade unions, to be involved in the governance of the service, including through full membership of Local Care Boards; notes that, in establishing the NCS, including any transfer of financial resources from local authorities to reformed integration boards, the Scottish Government should take into consideration the impact on local authorities' ability to resource and deliver other services; understands that the UK Government's mismanagement of the economy has heaped more pressure on care providers who were already adversely affected by the consequences of Brexit, and recognises the importance of local authorities, health boards, and the Scottish Government working constructively together to deliver improvements to social care in the interim, while mitigating the impact of the UK Government's actions."

Jackie Baillie moved amendment S6M-06523.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-06523 in the name of Craig Hoy (National Care Service Viability), leave out from "raises concern" to end and insert "; recognises that Scottish Labour first proposed a National Care Service over a decade ago with the aim of improving national standards for social care, while also supporting local delivery and accountability; regrets that, instead, the Scottish Ministers have published a bill that is completely lacking in a vision for a National Care Service; acknowledges the serious concerns from local government, trades unions and other stakeholders about the potential negative impacts of centralisation; considers that meaningful reform should focus on changing culture and not structures, so that care users are treated with dignity and staff are valued as skilled professionals; believes that the immediate priority must be to address the current challenges in social care, and calls on the Scottish Government to pause the bill and take stock, and urgently deliver on the recommendations in the Feely Review, including ending non-residential care charges, and to tackle poverty pay in the sector, in the midst of the cost of living crisis."

After debate, amendment S6M-06523.3 was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 62, Against 49, Abstentions 0). As a result, amendment S6M-6523.2 was pre-empted

The motion, as amended, was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 61, Against 50, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament notes that the experience of the COVID-19 pandemic highlights the imperative for the National Care Service (NCS) to end the postcode lottery in the provision of adult social care; believes that there must be a rights-based, user-led approach to social care with consistent and fair access to high-quality care and support; further believes that the NCS should embed ethical commissioning that promotes fair work and climate change ambitions; recognises that the key consideration is how improvements are made for people who rely on the services of the NCS; welcomes that the NCS will be shaped by co-design and that services will be delivered locally; supports the creation, in line with the recommendation of the Independent Review of Adult Social Care, of a system of national collective bargaining on pay, terms and conditions within the social care sector and for workforce representatives, such as trade unions, to be involved in the governance of the service, including through full membership of Local Care Boards; notes that, in establishing the NCS, including any transfer of financial resources from local authorities to reformed integration boards, the Scottish Government should take into consideration the impact on local authorities' ability to resource and deliver other services; understands that the UK Government's mismanagement of the economy has heaped more pressure on care providers who were already adversely affected by the consequences of Brexit, and recognises the importance of local authorities, health boards, and the Scottish Government working constructively together to deliver improvements to social care in the interim, while mitigating the impact of the UK Government's actions.

4. Essential Road Improvements: Graham Simpson moved S6M-06520—That the Parliament notes with alarm the number of recent fatalities on the A9 and A96; recognises the pain that these tragedies have caused families; believes that fully dualling both roads could lead to a significant improvement in road safety as well as helping the economy; notes the SNP administration's previous commitment to fully dual the A9 between Perth and Inverness and the A96, and calls on the Scottish Government to set out when these vital works will be completed.

The Minister for Transport (Jenny Gilruth) moved amendment S6M-06520.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-06520 in the name of Graham Simpson (Essential Road Improvements), leave out from "believes that" to end and insert "and indeed the pain caused by all fatalities and serious accidents across Scotland's road network; acknowledges that Transport Scotland is working with Police Scotland and partner agencies to understand the circumstances of recent accidents; notes that, as investigations continue, it would be inappropriate for the Parliament to comment on individual cases further; agrees that road safety is paramount and, while the Scottish Government is investing record amounts in road safety to help meet the long-term goal of zero fatalities and injuries on Scotland's roads by 2050, there is more to do with short-term measures to address specific safety issues on trunk roads like the A9 and A96; acknowledges the investment of £400 million to date for dualling the A9 between Perth and Inverness and that work is

continuing across the A9, and notes the Scottish Government's commitment to take forward a transport enhancements programme on the A96 corridor and that the review of the programme to fully dual the A96 will report by the end of the year."

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 62, Against 47, Abstentions 2).

Neil Bibby moved amendment S6M-06520.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-06520 in the name of Graham Simpson (Essential Road Improvements), insert at end ", and further calls on the Scottish Government to urgently publish the final Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR) 2 Report and a clear Delivery Plan for active travel, bus, ferry and rail infrastructure projects, including investment in roads across Scotland that has due regard to road safety, journey times, economic and community development and climate impact, and clear actions to reverse the decline in public transport, which has seen significant cuts to both rail and bus services in Scotland."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 49, Against 61, Abstentions 0).

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 82, Against 28, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament notes with alarm the number of recent fatalities on the A9 and A96; recognises the pain that these tragedies have caused families; and indeed the pain caused by all fatalities and serious accidents across Scotland's road network; acknowledges that Transport Scotland is working with Police Scotland and partner agencies to understand the circumstances of recent accidents; notes that, as investigations continue, it would be inappropriate for the Parliament to comment on individual cases further; agrees that road safety is paramount and, while the Scottish Government is investing record amounts in road safety to help meet the long-term goal of zero fatalities and injuries on Scotland's roads by 2050, there is more to do with short-term measures to address specific safety issues on trunk roads like the A9 and A96; acknowledges the investment of £400 million to date for dualling the A9 between Perth and Inverness and that work is continuing across the A9, and notes the Scottish Government's commitment to take forward a transport enhancements programme on the A96 corridor and that the review of the programme to fully dual the A96 will report by the end of the year.

5. Business Motion: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-06563—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 8 November 2022

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Ministerial Statement: Future Agriculture Support and Food Security in Scotland

followed by Ministerial Statement: National Planning Framework 4

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Remembrance Commemorations and Support for the Veterans and Armed Forces Community

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 9 November 2022

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Rural Affairs and Islands; Health and Social Care

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Forestry's Contribution to Net Zero Scotland

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 10 November 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: Social Justice, Housing and Local Government

followed by Health, Social Care and Sport Committee Debate: Inquiry into Alternative Pathways to Primary Care

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 15 November 2022

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Scottish Government Business

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 16 November 2022

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Constitution, External Affairs and Culture; Justice and Veterans

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 17 November 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 Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee Debate:
The Impact of Brexit on Devolution

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

(b) that, for the purposes of Portfolio Questions in the week beginning 7 November 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 (DT).

6. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-06564—That the Parliament agrees that the Scottish Biometrics Commissioner Act 2020 (Code of Practice) (Appointed Day) (Scotland) Regulations 2022 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

7. Designation of Lead Committee: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-06565—That the Parliament agrees that the Criminal Justice Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the legislative consent memorandum in relation to the Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Bill (UK Legislation).

The motion was agreed to (DT).

8. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 3, 4, 6 and 7 as noted above.

9. Western Isles Interconnector: The Parliament debated S6M-06111 in the name of Alasdair Allan—That the Parliament welcomes the recent National Grid Electricity System Operator report, Pathway to 2030 Holistic Network Design, and the inclusion of a new 1.8GW interconnector to connect the Western Isles, which has been assessed as "required" to deliver 2030 offshore wind targets; understands that this new link is expected to have sufficient capacity to accommodate all known onshore wind contracted to connect in the Western Isles as well as the two ScotWind sites in closest proximity to the islands; welcomes the transformational economic impacts that investment in renewables and grid infrastructure will reportedly have on the Western Isles and Scottish economies; recognises what it sees as the significant contribution this investment will make towards net zero targets and securing Scotland's future energy independence and energy security; notes with concern that the new link was not included in the energy regulator, Ofgem's, recent consultation on accelerating onshore electricity transmission investment, and notes calls for Ofgem to ensure this new link is included in its final list of projects approved for accelerated investment, which is due to be published before the end of 2022.

The meeting closed at 6.33 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
2 November 2022

Appendix

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 2 November 2022—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 54th Report, 2022 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 1 November 2022 (SP Paper 249)

The following report will be published on 3 November 2022—

Finance and Public Administration Committee, 9th Report, 2022 (Session 6): Pre-Budget Scrutiny 2023-24: Scotland's Public Finances in 2023-24 and the Impact of the Cost of Living and Public Service Reform (SP Paper 248)

Other Documents

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 2 November 2022 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland: A Children's Rights Perspective - Repeal of the Human Rights Act (CCYP/2022/05) laid under Section 12 of the Commissioner for Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2003

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