



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 2, No. 41, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 9 November 2022

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

**1. Portfolio Questions:** Questions on Rural Affairs and Islands and then on Health and Social Care were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.

**2. Forestry's Contribution to Net Zero Scotland:** The Minister for Environment and Land Reform (Màiri McAllan) moved S6M-06658—That the Parliament acknowledges the essential contribution to net zero that trees, woods and forests make, tackling the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss, especially ahead of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP27; notes the importance of growing and maintaining a resilient forest resource to sustain its economic, social and environmental contribution; welcomes the achievements made in implementing Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2029; further welcomes the creation of 4,362 hectares of native woodland in 2021, delivering the target agreed in the Bute House Agreement, which will be reviewed in the forthcoming biodiversity strategy, and reiterates the commitment to increase the use of domestic timber, and the Scottish Government's annual woodland creation target, which increases to 18,000 hectares by 2025.

Brian Whittle moved amendment S6M-06658.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-06658 in the name of Màiri McAllan (Forestry's Contribution to Net Zero Scotland), leave out from “achievements” to end and insert “progress made in implementing Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2029, including the creation of 4,362 hectares of native woodland; notes that Scotland continues to experience significant biodiversity loss and species

decline; considers the delivery of an effective, ambitious biodiversity strategy to be critical to the preservation of Scotland's diverse ecology and reversing the decline in biodiversity; acknowledges the potential of Scotland's commercial forestry sector in carbon sequestration efforts, including through increasing use of domestic timber, while also recognising the critical biodiversity benefits of new woodland creation using a diverse range of native species; further acknowledges the importance of protecting farmland to improve food security and food production; recognises the need for greater funding to develop the skills of existing and new forestry workers; raises concern that the Scottish Government only created 9,414 hectares in the last year, below its 12,000 hectares target; notes that the Scottish Government's annual woodland creation target will be increased to 18,000 hectares by 2025, and considers it critical that this and other targets to strengthen forestry's contribution to achieving net zero and halting biodiversity loss are met on time and in full."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 53, Against 66, Abstentions 0).

Colin Smyth moved amendment S6M-06658.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-06658 in the name of Màiri McAllan (Forestry's Contribution to Net Zero Scotland), insert at end “; recognises that the rate of growth in tree planting in Scotland slowed in recent years; calls on the Scottish Government to ensure that forestry plans deliver its tree planting targets, increase biodiversity and tackle climate change; celebrates the contribution of Scotland's forestry workers and their trade unions, and recognises the importance of maintaining and increasing a highly skilled workforce, contributing to a low carbon Just Transition.”

After debate, the amendment was agreed to (DT).

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 90, Against 29, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament acknowledges the essential contribution to net zero that trees, woods and forests make, tackling the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss, especially ahead of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP27; notes the importance of growing and maintaining a resilient forest resource to sustain its economic, social and environmental contribution; welcomes the achievements made in implementing Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2029; further welcomes the creation of 4,362 hectares of native woodland in 2021, delivering the target agreed in the Bute House Agreement, which will be reviewed in the forthcoming biodiversity strategy; reiterates the commitment to increase the use of domestic timber, and the Scottish Government's annual woodland creation target, which increases to 18,000 hectares by 2025; recognises that the rate of growth in tree planting in Scotland slowed in recent years; calls on the Scottish Government to ensure that forestry plans deliver its tree planting targets, increase biodiversity and tackle climate change; celebrates the contribution of Scotland's

forestry workers and their trade unions, and recognises the importance of maintaining and increasing a highly skilled workforce, contributing to a low carbon Just Transition.

**3. Business Programme:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-06687—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

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 Debate: The Future of Gaelic and Scots

*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 Debate: Improving Care and Services for People with Chronic Pain

*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

Tuesday 22 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 23 November 2022

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Covid Recovery and Parliamentary Business; Finance and Economy

*followed by* Scottish Labour 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 November 2022

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

*followed by* Members' Business

2.15 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.15 pm Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body Questions

2.30 pm Portfolio Questions: Net Zero, Energy and Transport

*followed by* Scottish Government Business

*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 14 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.

**4. Stage 2 Timetable:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-06688—That the Parliament

agrees that consideration of the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill at stage 2 be completed by 23 November 2022.

Alexander Burnett moved amendment S6M-06688.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-06688 in the name of George Adam (Stage 2 Timetable), leave out “23 November” and insert “7 December”.

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 30, Against 89, Abstentions 0).

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 90, Against 29, Abstentions 0).

**5. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-06689—That the Parliament agrees that the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme (Amendment) (No. 3) Order 2022 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**6. Office of the Clerk:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-06690—That the Parliament agrees that the Office of the Clerk be closed on —  
(a) Wednesday 28, Thursday 29 and Friday 30 December 2022, and  
(b) further to motion S6M-01333, Friday 23 December 2022 (pm).

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**7. Committee Membership:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-06710—That the Parliament agrees—

Ash Regan be appointed to replace Natalie Don as a member of the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee.

James Dornan be appointed to replace Elena Whitham as a member of the Social Justice and Social Security Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**8. Decision Time:** The Parliament took decisions on items 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7 as noted above.

**9. Greenock and Inverclyde Faced with Higher Forecourt Prices that Rest of Scotland:** The Parliament debated S6M-05607 in the name of Stuart McMillan—That the Parliament rejects what it sees as the unfair fuel-pricing policy reportedly facing the people of Greenock and Inverclyde; understands that reports from BBC Scotland and the Greenock Telegraph suggest that forecourt prices in the area are significantly higher than in other parts of Scotland, including in more rural constituencies; believes that fuel retailers operating in Inverclyde have failed to

acknowledge the impact of what it sees as a localised approach to pricing on people and businesses in the area, which, based on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD), ranks highest in Scotland for levels of deprivation; welcomes the announcement that the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) will conduct a market study into the supply of road fuel in the UK; notes the view that changes are needed to prevent fuel retailers from charging significantly higher prices in one area compared to nearby locations; believes that reducing reliance on petrol and diesel vehicles is crucial, in light of the climate emergency; considers, however, that some people rely on their car for work or health reasons, and that purchasing a hybrid or electric vehicle, or using public transport, is not always an option; highlights what it sees as the vast profits being made by big businesses, including oil and gas companies; believes that this is in sharp contradiction to the cost of living crisis facing society that is plunging more households into poverty; notes the view that the UK Government must extend measures to help households, including through a cut in VAT and reduction in fuel duty; further notes the calls on the UK Government to act immediately, before autumn and winter 2022; notes the view that, if immediate action is not taken, the oil and gas sector in Scotland will carry a disproportionate burden of funding a UK-wide response to the cost of living crisis; notes calls on fuel retailers to reduce forecourt prices in Greenock and Inverclyde so that they are in line with the rest of Scotland, and looks forward to the CMA's report into the supply of road fuel across the UK being published later in 2022.

The meeting closed at 6.00 pm.

**David McGill**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
9 November 2022

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

**Committee Reports**

The following report was published on 9 November 2022—

Social Justice and Social Security Committee, 11th Report, 2022 (Session 6):  
Subordinate Legislation considered by the Social Justice and Social Security  
Committee on 27 October 2022 (SP Paper 255)

**Other Documents**

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

**Bòrd na Gàidhlig Aithisg Bhliadhnail Is Cunntasan 21-22 (SG/2022/241)**

laid under paragraph 9 of schedule 1 of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 and section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

**National Galleries of Scotland Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 (SG/2022/233)** laid under section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

**National Library of Scotland Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2022 (SG/2022/234)** laid under section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

**Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018: Progress Report 2021 - 2022 (SG/2022/212)** laid under sections 20 and 87 of the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018

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