



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 1, No. 62, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 21 December 2021

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Time for Reflection: Rev David Burt, Minister, Old Gourrock and Ashton Church, led Time for Reflection.

2. Revision to Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-02650—That the Parliament agrees to the following revision to the programme of business for Tuesday 21 December 2021—

after

followed by Scottish Government Debate: A New Deal for Tenants

insert

followed by Legislative Consent Motion: Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill - UK Legislation

The motion was agreed to.

3. Topical Questions: Questions were answered by Ministers.

4. First Minister's Statement: The First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon) made a statement and answered questions on COVID-19 Update.

5. A New Deal for Tenants: The Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings, Active Travel and Tenants' Rights (Patrick Harvie) moved S6M-02625—That the Parliament notes the publication of the consultation on A New Deal for Tenants, which seeks views on the Scottish Government's ambitious plans for the rented sector; agrees that the 1.85 million people who live in the rented sector should have improved quality, standards and rights in the place they call home; supports the aims of A New Deal for Tenants to ensure tenants have more secure and stable tenancies, flexibility to personalise their homes, improved safeguards against eviction, improved regulation and effective national rent controls in the private sector; recognises that this strategy will support progress towards the human right of an adequate home for all, and welcomes, therefore, this draft strategy seeking to make renting a home more affordable, safer, with a higher quality, better managed and more secure.

Miles Briggs moved amendment S6M-02625.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-02625 in the name of Patrick Harvie (A New Deal for Tenants), leave out from “, improved regulation” to end and insert “and improved regulation; acknowledges, however, that the biggest challenge facing those in the rented sector is the rising cost of living caused by a national housing shortage; notes that the Rural Housing Fund delivered just 59 new homes over four years; notes with concern the decision to reduce the housing budget in 2022-23; further notes concerns that current levels of investment in this sector are not high enough to meet the target of building 110,000 affordable homes by 2032; notes that the number of households in temporary accommodation is now at a record high and that high rental costs are one of the main barriers preventing those who are homeless from securing new tenancies; regrets that the implementation of the Homeless Persons (Unsuitable Accommodation) (Scotland) Order 2014 was repeatedly delayed; notes concerns that the introduction of rent controls may be counter-productive and result in reduced choice for private tenants; calls on the Scottish Government to provide increased investment in the housing market to ensure tenants have access to a wide range of affordable properties, but otherwise welcomes this draft strategy seeking to make renting a home more affordable, safer, with a higher quality, better managed and more secure.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 28, Against 89, Abstentions 0).

Mark Griffin moved amendment S6M-02625.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-02625 in the name of Patrick Harvie (A New Deal for Tenants), after “private sector” insert “; agrees that the legislation establishing the framework for these rent controls must be included in the forthcoming Housing Bill in the second year of the current parliamentary session”.

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 88, Against 28, Abstentions 0).

Willie Rennie moved amendment S6M-02625.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-02625 in the name of Patrick Harvie (A New Deal for Tenants), insert at end “; urges the Scottish Government to also address the issues around the availability of private rented properties; considers that it should increase its ambitions for the building of more homes for social rent, and believes that increasing the supply of affordable rented housing is necessary to give people security, stabilise the housing market and support progress towards the human right of an adequate home for all.”

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

The motion, as amended, was then agreed to ((DT) by division: For 89, Against 28, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—That the Parliament notes the publication of the consultation on A New Deal for Tenants, which seeks views on the Scottish Government’s ambitious plans for the rented sector; agrees that the 1.85 million people who live in the rented sector should have improved quality, standards and rights in the place they call home; supports the aims of A New Deal for Tenants to ensure tenants have more secure and stable tenancies, flexibility to personalise their homes, improved safeguards against eviction, improved regulation and effective national rent controls in the private sector; agrees that the legislation establishing the framework for these rent controls must be included in the forthcoming Housing Bill in the second year of the current parliamentary session; recognises that this strategy will support progress towards the human right of an adequate home for all; welcomes, therefore, this draft strategy seeking to make renting a home more affordable, safer, with a higher quality, better managed and more secure; urges the Scottish Government to also address the issues around the availability of private rented properties; considers that it should increase its ambitions for the building of more homes for social rent, and believes that increasing the supply of affordable rented housing is necessary to give people security, stabilise the housing market and support progress towards the human right of an adequate home for all.

6. Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill - UK Legislation: The Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Veterans (Keith Brown) moved S6M-02618—That the Parliament agrees that the relevant provisions of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill, introduced in the House of Commons on 9 March 2021, relating to the power to extract information from digital devices of witnesses, victims and others, so far as these matters fall within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament, should be considered by the UK Parliament.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

7. Temporary Amendment to Standing Orders: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-02651—That the Parliament agrees that Temporary Standing Orders Rule 4 be amended in paragraph 1 to delete “31 December 2021” and insert “11 February 2022”.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

8. Suspension and Variation of Standing Orders: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-02652—That the Parliament agrees that, for the purposes of committee meetings up to 11 February 2022—

(a) in Rule 6.3A.1 after “member” the words “or members” be inserted;

(b) Rule 6.3A.2 be suspended;

(c) in Rule 6.3A.4 the first sentence be suspended;

(d) after Rule 6.3A.5(d) the words “(e) a political party withdraws in writing to the Bureau that nomination of the member or members nominated for the purposes of committee meetings up to 11 February 2022.” be inserted; and

(e) in Rule 12.1.15 the words “(other than a committee substitute)” be omitted in both instances where they occur.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

9. Temporary Amendment to Standing Orders: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-02653—That the Parliament agrees that Temporary Standing Orders Rule 3 be amended—

(a) in paragraph 1 to delete “24 December 2021” and insert “11 February 2022”; and

(b) in paragraph 2 to delete “24 December 2021” and insert “11 February 2022”.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

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

11. Ending Pharmaceutical Monopolies of COVID-19 Vaccines: The Parliament debated S6M-02360 in the name of Sarah Boyack—That the Parliament notes the calls by a coalition of Scottish charities to support the ending of what it considers to be pharmaceutical monopolies; understands that these monopolies are reportedly artificially limiting vaccine supply to low-income countries; considers that vaccine inequality has resulted from a handful of pharmaceutical companies rationing supply, by refusing to share their vaccine recipes and know-how with the rest of the world, and notes the calls on the Prime Minister to back plans to waive intellectual property rules and to insist that vaccine know-how and technology is shared via the World Health Organization’s COVID-19 Technology Access Pool, in order to enable a life-saving escalation in global vaccine production and help avoid the development of further COVID-19 variants like Omicron, which may impact people in Scotland, including in the Lothian region.

The meeting closed at 6.10 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
21 December 2021

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 17 December 2021—

Criminal Justice Committee, 4th Report, 2021 (Session 6): Legislative Consent Memorandums Considered by the Criminal Justice Committee on 15 December 2021 (SP Paper 67)

The following report was published on 21 December 2021—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 23rd Report, 2021 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 21 December 2021 (SP Paper 72)

Subordinate Legislation

Made Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 17 December 2021 and is subject to the made affirmative procedure—

Health Protection (Coronavirus) (International Travel and Operator Liability) (Scotland) Amendment (No. 13) Regulations 2021 (SSI 2021/478)
laid under section 122(6) and (7) of the Public Health etc. (Scotland) Act 2008

Affirmative Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 17 December 2021 and are subject to the affirmative procedure—

Social Security Information-sharing (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2022 [draft]
laid under section 96(2) of the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018

Disability Assistance for Working Age People (Scotland) Regulations 2022 [draft]
laid under section 96(2) of the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018

Negative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 17 December 2021 and is subject to the negative procedure—

Food (Withdrawal of Recognition) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2021 (SSI 2021/477)
laid under section 48(3) of the Food Safety Act 1990

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 20 December 2021 and is subject to the negative procedure—

Nutritional Requirements for Food and Drink in Schools (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2021 (SSI 2021/481)
laid under section 133(2) of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980

Laid Only Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 17 December 2021 and is not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 (Commencement No. 9) Regulations 2021 (SSI 2021/474 (C. 35))
laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 20 December 2021 and is not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 (Commencement No. 8) Regulations 2021 (SSI 2021/480 (C. 36))
laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 17 December 2021 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Scottish Government response to scrutiny report by the Scottish Commission for Social Security (SCOSS) SG/2021/384 laid under section 97(9) of the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018

Scottish Legal Aid Board Annual Report and Accounts For the year ended 31 March 2021 SG/2021/299 laid under section 5(7)(a) of the Legal Aid (Scotland) Act 1986 and section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Ayrshire and Arran Health Board Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 SG/2021/319 laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

NHS Fife Annual Report and Consolidated Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 SG/2021/322 laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Forth Valley NHS Board Our Annual Report and Accounts 2020/2021 SG/2021/323 laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Dumfries and Galloway NHS Board Annual Report and Accounts for year ended 31 March 2021 SG/2021/321 laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

NHS Borders Health Board Annual Report and Accounts 2020/21 SG/2021/320 laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Grampian Health Board Annual Report & Accounts 2020/2021 SG/2021/324 laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

NHS Orkney Annual Report and Accounts for year ended 31 March 2021 SG/2021/328 laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

NHS Lothian Annual Report and Accounts Year ended 31st March 2021 SG/2021/327 laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

NHS Lanarkshire Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 SG/2021/326 laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Annual Report and Consolidated Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 SG/2021/325 laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Scottish Ambulance Service Annual Report and Accounts for year ended 31 March 2021 SG/2021/333 laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Public Health Scotland Annual Report & Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 SG/2021/332 laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

NHS Western Isles Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2021 SG/2021/331 laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Tayside Health Board Annual Report and Accounts for year ended 31 March 2021 SG/2021/330 laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Shetland NHS Board Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 SG/2021/329 laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 20 December 2021 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Architecture & Design Scotland Annual Report and Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2021 SG/2021/383 laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Forestry and Land Scotland Annual Report and Accounts 2020-2021 SG/2021/375 laid at the request of a member of the Scottish Government and not under any laying power

Young Start Annual Report 2020-2021 SG/2021/368 laid under Paragraph 9, Part 3, Schedule 3 of the Dormant Bank and Building Society Accounts Act 2008

Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland Annual Report and Accounts for year ended 31 March 2021 SG/2021/339 laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

National Waiting Times Centre Board (also known as the NHS Golden Jubilee) Annual Report and Accounts For Year ended 31 March 2021 SG/2021/338 laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

NHS Education for Scotland Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 SG/2021/337 laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

NHS 24 Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 SG/2021/336 laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

The State Hospitals Board for Scotland Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 SG/2021/335 laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Healthcare Improvement Scotland Annual Report and Accounts for year ended 31 March 2021 SG/2021/334 laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

The 2020/21 audit of the Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland SG/2021/388 laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Ethical Standards Commissioner Annual Report and Accounts 2020/21 SG/2021/387 laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 21 December 2021 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

British Film Institute Annual Report and Financial Statements 2020-2021 SG/2021/353 laid under Section 88 of the Scotland Act 1998

Scottish Futures Trust Investments Limited Annual Report and Financial Statements For the year ended 31 March 2021 SG/2021/360 laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Scottish Futures Trust Limited Annual Report and Group Financial Statements For the year ended 31 March 2021 SG/2021/359 laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

VisitScotland Group Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 SG/2021/374 laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

TS Prestwick Holdco Ltd Annual Report and Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 March 2021 SG/2021/369 laid under section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Annual report on procurement activity in Scotland - An overview of procurement activity 2019-20 SG/2021/269 laid under Section 21(4)(b) of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014

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