



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 2, No. 2, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 18 May 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 on Net Zero, Energy and Transport were answered by the Deputy First Minister, Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.

**2. Supporting Carers During the Cost of Living Crisis:** Jackie Baillie moved S6M-04441—That the Parliament is concerned by the escalating pressures that the cost of living crisis is putting on both the social care workforce and unpaid carers across Scotland, the majority of whom are women; recognises that poor pay and working practices in social care have been increasingly exposed during the COVID-19 pandemic and have created a recruitment crisis; notes that the rise in fuel prices is impacting on the ability of care workers to visit the people they support; calls on the Scottish Government to immediately end all non-residential care charges and implement a strategy for unpaid carers, which includes the restoration and expansion of respite services, with entitlements to short breaks and wellbeing services, and resolves that the mileage reimbursement rate for care workers is increased by five pence per mile, as agreed for NHS workers.

The Minister for Mental Wellbeing and Social Care (Kevin Stewart) moved amendment S6M-04441.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-04441 in the name of Jackie Baillie (Supporting Carers During the Cost of Living Crisis), leave out from "recognises" to end and insert "recognises the severe and ongoing impact of Brexit on the recruitment and retention of social care workers; believes that

responsibility for employment law should be devolved to the Scottish Parliament so that it can embed fair work principles, including enshrining the real Living Wage for all ages; notes that the minimum hourly rate for adult social care workers in commissioned services in Scotland increased by over 10% to £10.50 per hour in the last year; supports the Scottish Government's commitment to scrapping non-residential care charges and introducing the National Care Service; further supports that the principles of fair work and ethical commissioning will be embedded within the National Care Service; welcomes the additional £5 million for short breaks for 2022-23 to enable more families and young carers to take a break from caring; encourages local authorities to engage with social care providers and contractors to address increased fuel costs for staff, particularly through mileage rates, and calls on the UK Government to take forward an emergency budget to address the cost of living crisis and increasing fuel costs, not least its impact on unpaid carers."

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 66, Against 52, Abstentions 0). As a result, amendment S6M-04441.1 was pre-empted.

Sandesh Gulhane moved amendment S6M-04441.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-04441 in the name of Jackie Baillie (Supporting Carers During the Cost of Living Crisis), leave out from "immediately" to the end and insert "provide funding to local authorities and integration authorities to end all non-residential charges; regrets that local government revenue has decreased by 20% in real terms since 2013-14 according to COSLA; calls on the Scottish Government to implement a strategy for unpaid carers, which includes the restoration and expansion of respite services, with entitlements to short breaks and wellbeing services; further calls for Carer's Allowance to be made available immediately to unpaid carers in full-time education; calls for payments of Carer's Allowance to be made to unpaid carers for up to six months after bereavement; further calls on the Scottish Government to guarantee that funding received through the Health and Social Care Levy will be passed on in full, and, while welcoming the UK Government's cut to fuel duty, considers that the mileage reimbursement for care workers should be temporarily increased, based on the cost of fuel, and funded by the Scottish Government, by five pence per mile, as agreed for NHS workers."

The motion, as amended, was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 66, Against 32, Abstentions 21).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament is concerned by the escalating pressures that the cost of living crisis is putting on both the social care workforce and unpaid carers across Scotland, the majority of whom are women; recognises the severe and ongoing impact of Brexit on the recruitment and retention of social care workers; believes that responsibility for employment law should be devolved to the Scottish Parliament so that it can embed fair work principles, including enshrining the real Living Wage for all ages; notes that the minimum hourly rate for adult social care workers in

commissioned services in Scotland increased by over 10% to £10.50 per hour in the last year; supports the Scottish Government's commitment to scrapping non-residential care charges and introducing the National Care Service; further supports that the principles of fair work and ethical commissioning will be embedded within the National Care Service; welcomes the additional £5 million for short breaks for 2022-23 to enable more families and young carers to take a break from caring; encourages local authorities to engage with social care providers and contractors to address increased fuel costs for staff, particularly through mileage rates, and calls on the UK Government to take forward an emergency budget to address the cost of living crisis and increasing fuel costs, not least its impact on unpaid carers.

**3. Protecting Attainment Funding:** Michael Marra moved S6M-04445—That the Parliament calls on the Scottish Government to revise plans for the Scottish Attainment Challenge to reinstate full funding to the nine original Attainment Challenge Authorities.

The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills (Shirley-Anne Somerville) moved amendment S6M-04445.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-04445 in the name of Michael Marra (Protecting Attainment Funding), leave out from "calls on" to end and insert "notes the Scottish Government's commitment to invest a record £1 billion through the Scottish Attainment Challenge to recover from COVID-19 and accelerate progress in closing the poverty-related attainment gap through the refreshed Scottish Attainment Challenge, an increase from the £750 million invested over the course of the last parliamentary session; recognises that poverty exists in every community in Scotland; welcomes the clear, funded role in tackling the poverty-related attainment gap; notes that the refreshed Scottish Attainment Challenge model was developed in partnership with, and agreed and welcomed by, COSLA; welcomes that headteachers will continue to be empowered to reduce the poverty-related attainment gap in their school communities; notes the refreshed mission of the Challenge, which focuses on improving outcomes for children and young people impacted by poverty, contributing to the Scottish Government's ambitions to tackle child poverty, and supports complementary action being taken forward by the Scottish Government to tackle child poverty, including the delivery of five family benefits, including the Scottish Child Payment, increasing the school clothing grant, and through services to support income maximisation."

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 67, Against 52, Abstentions 0).

Oliver Mundell moved amendment S6M-04445.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-04445 in the name of Michael Marra (Protecting Attainment Funding), insert at end ", and believes that, if the Scottish Government and the First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, had kept their promise to make education their number one priority, resourced the education system properly, and had not cut thousands of teaching and support roles

prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, many of the challenges that are being seen could have been significantly reduced."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 51, Against 66, Abstentions 0).

The motion, as amended, was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 67, Against 51, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament notes the Scottish Government's commitment to invest a record £1 billion through the Scottish Attainment Challenge to recover from COVID-19 and accelerate progress in closing the poverty-related attainment gap through the refreshed Scottish Attainment Challenge, an increase from the £750 million invested over the course of the last parliamentary session; recognises that poverty exists in every community in Scotland; welcomes the clear, funded role in tackling the poverty-related attainment gap; notes that the refreshed Scottish Attainment Challenge model was developed in partnership with, and agreed and welcomed by, COSLA; welcomes that headteachers will continue to be empowered to reduce the poverty-related attainment gap in their school communities; notes the refreshed mission of the Challenge, which focuses on improving outcomes for children and young people impacted by poverty, contributing to the Scottish Government's ambitions to tackle child poverty, and supports complementary action being taken forward by the Scottish Government to tackle child poverty, including the delivery of five family benefits, including the Scottish Child Payment, increasing the school clothing grant, and through services to support income maximisation.

**4. Business Programme:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-04461—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 24 May 2022

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Topical Questions (if selected)

*followed by* Ministerial Statement: European Charter of Local Self-Government (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill - Next Steps

*followed by* Scottish Government Debate: Keeping Care Close to Home and Improving Outcomes

*followed by* Committee Announcements

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Wednesday 25 May 2022

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Health and Social Care; Social Justice, Housing and Local Government

*followed by* Scottish Government Debate: Community Wealth Building - Delivering Transformation in Scotland's Local and Regional Economies

*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 26 May 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* Scottish Government Debate: Update on Delivery of Social Security Benefits

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 31 May 2022

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Topical Questions (if selected)

*followed by* Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee, Health, Social Care and Sport Committee and Social Justice and Social Security Committee Debate: Reducing Scotland's Drugs Deaths and Drugs Harm

*followed by* Committee Announcements

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Wednesday 1 June 2022

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm General Questions

2.20 pm First Minister's Questions

3.05 pm Portfolio Questions: Justice and Veterans; Finance and Economy; Education and Skills

*followed by* The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022

*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

(b) that, for the purposes of Portfolio Questions in the week beginning 23 May 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.

Stephen Kerr moved amendment S6M-04461.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-04461 in the name of George Adam (Business Programme), after—

"Tuesday 24 May 2022

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Topical Questions (if selected)"

insert—

*"followed by* Deputy First Minister's Statement: Ferries Contract Approval".

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to (by division: For 52, Against 67, Abstentions 0).

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 68, Against 51, Abstentions 0).

**5. Stage 2 Timetable:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-04462—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles (Scotland) Bill at stage 2 be completed by 8 June 2022.

The motion was agreed to.

**6. Stage 2 Timetable:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-04476—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Coronavirus (Recovery and Reform) (Scotland) Bill at stage 2 be completed by 14 June 2022.

The motion was agreed to.

**7. Stage 2 Consideration of a Bill:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-04477—That the Parliament agrees that under Rule 9.7.1(b) and 9.7.4 that stage 2 of the Coronavirus (Recovery and Reform) (Scotland) Bill be taken as follows—

(a) the following committees will consider the Bill in the following order:

(i) the Criminal Justice Committee to consider sections 26, 30, 31, 32 in Part 3 and Part 5 with the schedule being considered immediately after the section that introduces it,

(ii) the Covid-19 Recovery Committee to consider Part 1, Part 2, Part 3 of the Bill (other than sections 26, 30, 31, 32), Part 4, Part 6 and the long title,

(b) the Criminal Justice Committee to consider (in the order set out in paragraph (a))

—

(i) Sections 26, 30, 31, 32 in Part 3,

(ii) Part 5, including the schedule being considered immediately after the section that introduces it,

(iii) any amendment to provisions in sections 26, 30, 31, 32 and Part 5,

(iv) any other amendments specifically on matters relating to justice, including civil and criminal justice,

(c) the Covid-19 Recovery Committee to consider (in the order set out in paragraph (a)) all amendments other than those that are to be considered by the Criminal Justice Committee in accordance with paragraph (b).

The motion was agreed to.

**8. Decision Time:** The Parliament took decisions on items 2 and 3 as noted above.

**9. Improving the Disaster Response to Serious Weather Events:** The Parliament debated S6M-03646 in the name of Tess White—That the Parliament recognises that parts of Scotland, and particularly the north east, have been seriously affected by adverse weather events such as Storms Arwen, Barra, Malik and Corrie, at the end of 2021 and early 2022, which tragically led to a loss of life; acknowledges that these weather events resulted in a loss of power for thousands of households, in some cases for a protracted period over a number of days, and that the water supply, telecoms, rail and road infrastructure were also compromised; notes the view that it is vital for all those involved to learn lessons from the disaster response to these storms and to make appropriate and prompt improvements to increase community resilience in future; further notes the six recommendations of the Scottish Government's Storm Arwen review, published in January 2022, and notes the calls on the Scottish Government to set out an action plan for the implementation and delivery of these recommendations ahead of the update in June 2022; considers that the communication of information during emergencies is particularly important and notes the view that more must be done in advance of serious weather warnings to notify communities how they can access up-to-date information when telecoms are down; pays tribute to those volunteers who mobilised following these storms to support vulnerable individuals, and those who became

newly vulnerable as they lost power, telecoms and water supply in communities such as Fettercairn, Stonehaven and Glenbervie, and notes the calls for people who can to engage with the British Red Cross and other organisations about opportunities to volunteer in their communities as emergency responders alongside local partners.

The meeting closed at 6.26 pm.

**David McGill**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
18 May 2022



## **Appendix**

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

### **Committee Reports**

The following report was published on 18 May 2022—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 30th Report, 2022 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 17 May 2022 (SP Paper 178)

### **Other Documents**

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 18 May 2022 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**Transvaginal Mesh Removal Reimbursement Scheme 2022 SG/2022/87** laid under Section 2(2)(a) of the Transvaginal Mesh Removal (Cost Reimbursement) (Scotland) Act 2022

**Scottish Public Services Ombudsman: Compendium Report of Discontinued Investigations: Compendium of Case Reports for May 2022 SPSO/2022/05** laid under Sections 15(1) and 15(1A) of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002

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