



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 6, No. 71, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 1 February 2023

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

**1. Portfolio Questions:** Questions on Constitution, External Affairs and Culture and then on Justice and Veterans were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.

**2. Electoral Reform Consultation:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam) moved S6M-07721—That the Parliament welcomes the publication of the Scottish Government's consultation on electoral reform, which seeks views on how to improve the process of taking part in elections for voters, candidates, campaigners, and administrators; welcomes that the proposals in the consultation include improvements in relation to standing for election, the accessibility of voting, the scheduling of elections, campaigning, and the administration and governance of elections; notes that views are sought on a range of measures introduced by the UK Elections Act 2022 and the impact they have on Scottish devolved elections, and encourages interested individuals and organisations to respond to the consultation and ensure their views are heard before the consultation closes on 15 March 2023.

Donald Cameron moved amendment S6M-07721.1

As an amendment to motion S6M-07721 in the name of George Adam (Electoral Reform Consultation), insert at end “; acknowledges that the safeguarding of young people must be at the heart of any proposal, and believes that any new measures that affect candidacy and voting rights should be subject to a full impact assessment.”

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

The motion, as amended, was agreed to (DT).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament welcomes the publication of the Scottish Government's consultation on electoral reform, which seeks views on how to improve the process of taking part in elections for voters, candidates, campaigners, and administrators; welcomes that the proposals in the consultation include improvements in relation to standing for election, the accessibility of voting, the scheduling of elections, campaigning, and the administration and governance of elections; notes that views are sought on a range of measures introduced by the UK Elections Act 2022 and the impact they have on Scottish devolved elections; encourages interested individuals and organisations to respond to the consultation and ensure their views are heard before the consultation closes on 15 March 2023; acknowledges that the safeguarding of young people must be at the heart of any proposal, and believes that any new measures that affect candidacy and voting rights should be subject to a full impact assessment.

**3. Committee remits:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-07746—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the remit of the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee be amended—

To consider and report on matters falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport, with the exception of matters relating to rural land use, wildlife crime and animal welfare.

(b) the name and remit of the Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee be amended—

Name of Committee: Rural Affairs and Islands Committee

Remit: To consider and report on matters falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands; and on matters relating to rural land use, wildlife crime and animal welfare falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**4. Office of the Clerk:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-07747—That the Parliament agrees that the Office of the Clerk be closed on Monday 8 May 2023.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**5. Decision Time:** Motion without Notice: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved without notice that,

under Rule 11.2.4, Decision Time be brought forward to 4.38 pm. The motion was agreed to.

**6. Decision Time:** The Parliament took decisions on items 2, 3 and 4 as noted above.

**7. Heart Month, February 2023:** The Parliament debated S6M-07161 in the name of Paul McLennan —That the Parliament recognises that February 2023 is heart month; understands that ischaemic heart disease is still the single biggest killer in Scotland and that British Heart Foundation Scotland estimates that 11,000 people in East Lothian and 700,000 people in Scotland are currently living with the effects of heart disease; further understands that British Heart Foundation currently funds £53.1 million in ongoing research in Scotland across 10 universities in Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, St Andrews and Stirling, which is 54% of publicly funded cardiovascular research, and notes that British Heart Foundation Scotland's priorities for heart disease services in East Lothian and across Scotland are to tackle heart disease risk factors, ensure timely and equitable care, and improve the collection and use of data.

The meeting closed at 5.15 pm.

**David McGill**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
1 February 2023

## **Appendix**

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

### **Committee Reports**

The following report was published on 1 February 2023—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 12th Report, 2023 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation Considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 31 January 2023 (SP Paper 310)

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