



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 2, No. 10, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 8 June 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 Net Zero, Energy and Transport were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.
- 2. Urgent Question:** An urgent question, to ask the Scottish Government what provisions it is making for Scotland fans to get home after tonight's Nations League match at Hampden against Armenia, in light of the reported announcement by ScotRail that they should leave early if they want to catch a train, was answered by the Minister for Transport (Jenny Gilruth).
- 3. Economic Priorities:** Liz Smith moved S6M-04815—That the Parliament is deeply concerned by many of the trends published within the recent analysis of the Scottish economy undertaken by the Scottish Fiscal Commission; is concerned, in particular, by the revised downward growth estimates and decline in real earnings, and that the Scottish Government has imposed higher tax rates on Scotland without increasing revenues, compared with the block grant adjustment, due to the ongoing issues relating to weaker productivity and inflexibilities within the Scottish labour market; is further concerned by the real-terms cuts of more than £1 billion announced by the Scottish Government, which will affect local government, the police and higher education, among key services; calls on the Scottish Government to commit to ensuring that no one in Scotland pays more income tax compared with people in the rest of the UK, when finances allow, ensuring that policies to deliver long-term growth, including collaborative projects with the UK Government such as city deals, are a priority within Scottish Government spending plans; calls for a

finance bill mechanism to be introduced to evaluate the effectiveness of public spending, and further calls for plans for a second independence referendum to be taken off the table.

The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy (Kate Forbes) moved amendment S6M-04815.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-04815 in the name of Liz Smith (Economic Priorities), leave out from “is deeply” to end and insert “endorses the priorities set out in the Scottish Government's spending review of tackling child poverty, addressing the climate crisis, building a stronger economy and improving public services, while supporting those people struggling with the increased cost of living; notes that the overall Scottish Budget has fallen by 5.2% in real terms between 2021-22 and 2022-23 and that the Scottish Fiscal Commission has confirmed a further 1% real-terms reduction until 2025-26; agrees that current financial fiscal arrangements between the UK Government and the Scottish Government are deeply flawed; highlights the persistent dismal failures of leadership in the UK Government, with the UK currently having the highest inflation rate of any G7 country, compounded by Brexit increasing food prices; notes recent research from the Glasgow Centre for Population Health highlighting the brutal reality of a decade of austerity under the UK Government, and believes that, with full control over the economic and financial powers, the Scottish Government could take further action to build the economy that Scotland deserves.”

Paul Sweeney moved amendment S6M-04815.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-04815 in the name of Liz Smith (Economic Priorities), leave out from “is deeply” to end and insert “notes the recent findings of the Scottish Fiscal Commission and is deeply concerned by many of the trends identified, including that productivity growth in Scotland has stalled since 2015 and earnings growth is lagging behind the UK's; is further concerned, in particular, by the revised downward growth estimates and decline in real earnings, and that the Scottish Government has imposed higher tax rates on Scotland without increasing revenues, compared with the block grant adjustment, due to the ongoing issues relating to weaker productivity and inflexibilities within the Scottish labour market, with the result that net Scottish income tax receipts in 2022-23 are forecast to be £428 million less than if income tax had not been devolved; considers that this is a consequence of the Scottish Government's failure to use the taxation, borrowing and investment powers of devolution to support and grow the Scottish economy; notes that this has directly resulted in less tax revenue available to invest in Scottish public services, and is further concerned by the real-terms cuts of more than £1 billion announced by the Scottish Government, which will affect local government, the police and higher education, among key services; calls on the Scottish Government to ensure that policies to deliver long-term growth, including collaborative projects with the UK Government such as city deals, are a priority within Scottish Government spending plans; further calls for a finance bill mechanism to be introduced to evaluate the effectiveness of public spending; calls for plans for a second independence referendum to be taken off the table,

and believes that the failure to grow Scottish wages will also mean that hard-working people are more exposed to the pressures of the cost of living crisis.”

After debate, amendment S6M-04815.3 was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 67, Against 55, Abstentions 0). As a result, amendment S6M-04815.2 was pre-empted.

The motion, as amended, was then agreed to ((DT) by division: For 67, Against 53, Abstentions 1).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament endorses the priorities set out in the Scottish Government's spending review of tackling child poverty, addressing the climate crisis, building a stronger economy and improving public services, while supporting those people struggling with the increased cost of living; notes that the overall Scottish Budget has fallen by 5.2% in real terms between 2021-22 and 2022-23 and that the Scottish Fiscal Commission has confirmed a further 1% real-terms reduction until 2025-26; agrees that current financial fiscal arrangements between the UK Government and the Scottish Government are deeply flawed; highlights the persistent dismal failures of leadership in the UK Government, with the UK currently having the highest inflation rate of any G7 country, compounded by Brexit increasing food prices; notes recent research from the Glasgow Centre for Population Health highlighting the brutal reality of a decade of austerity under the UK Government, and believes that, with full control over the economic and financial powers, the Scottish Government could take further action to build the economy that Scotland deserves.

4. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-04839—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 14 June 2022

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Ministerial Statement: Education Reform Update

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Good Food Nation (Scotland) Bill

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

6.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 15 June 2022

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

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

followed by Health, Social Care and Sport Committee Debate: Health and Wellbeing of Children and Young People

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 16 June 2022

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

followed by Members' Business

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body Questions

2.15 pm Portfolio Questions: Constitution, External Affairs and Culture

followed by Ministerial Statement: Role of Incineration in the Waste Hierarchy

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Miners' Strike (Pardons) (Scotland) Bill

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 21 June 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 Stage 3 Proceedings: Non-Domestic Rates (Coronavirus) (Scotland) Bill

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

6.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 22 June 2022

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Justice and Veterans; 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 23 June 2022

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

followed by Members' Business

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Education and Skills

followed by Scottish Government Business

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles (Scotland) Bill

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

6.30 pm Decision Time

(b) that, for the purposes of Portfolio Questions in the week beginning 13 June 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.

5. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-04840—That the Parliament agrees that the Non-Domestic Rates (Valuation Notices) (Scotland) Regulations 2022 [draft] be approved.

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-04841—That the Parliament agrees that the Companies Act 2006 (Scottish public sector companies to be audited by the Auditor General for Scotland) Order 2022 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

7. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-04842—That the Parliament agrees that the Cross-border Placements (Effect of Deprivation of Liberty Orders) (Scotland) Regulations 2022 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

8. Designation of Lead Committee: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-04843—That the Parliament agrees that the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the Moveable Transactions (Scotland) Bill at stage 1.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

9. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 3,5,6,7 and 8 as noted above.

10. Commemorating 40 Years Since the Falklands War: The Parliament debated S6M-03916 in the name of Graeme Dey—That the Parliament marks the 40th anniversary of the Falklands War, which began on 2 April 1982 and lasted 74 days until the Argentine surrender on 14 June; remembers the 255 UK Armed Forces personnel who died and were among over 1,000 lives lost in the conflict; commemorates the service and sacrifice of all those involved, with 30,000 sailors, marines, soldiers, airmen and merchant mariners having taken part, and with many more civilians having supported the war effort; recognises the particular role of Arbroath-based 45 Commando and the 2nd Battalion of the Scots Guards, which between them lost 15 men to the fighting; appreciates the efforts of poppyscotland and Legion Scotland to mark the occasion, including a service of remembrance to be held in Edinburgh on 18 June 2022, and commends the work of both organisations in supporting the veterans of this conflict and their families, many of whom continue to be affected by the tragedy of war to this day.

The meeting closed at 6.20 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
8 June 2022

Appendix

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 8 June 2022—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 34th Report, 2022 (Session 6): Report on Good Food Nation (Scotland) Bill after Stage 2 (SP Paper 189)

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