



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 3, No. 14, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 14 June 2023

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy, and then on Finance and Parliamentary Business were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and Ministers.

2. Taking Action on NHS Waiting Times: Jackie Baillie moved S6M-09462—That the Parliament is deeply concerned that NHS waiting lists continue to increase to record levels, with over 779,000 patients awaiting treatment; regrets that over 18,300 patients died on NHS waiting lists in 2022, whilst the number of people in Scotland paying for private treatment has increased by 73% since before the COVID-19 pandemic; notes that the Scottish Government has failed to meet its revised national targets for tackling long waits for planned care; is concerned about the delay in rolling out the network of National Treatment Centres; recognises that the NHS is facing a workforce crisis, with over 7,000 vacancies unfilled, and agency costs spiralling to £567 million in 2022-23, and calls on the Scottish Ministers to bring forward a revised NHS Recovery Plan, in consultation with key stakeholders, to reduce long waits as a matter of urgency.

The Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care (Michael Matheson) moved amendment S6M-09462.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-09462 in the name of Jackie Baillie (Taking Action on NHS Waiting Times), leave out from “is deeply” to end and insert “recognises the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on both the people of Scotland directly, and on the operation of the health service; further recognises

that too many people are waiting too long for treatment, and welcomes the reductions in the longest waits recently; notes that health services across the four nations are dealing with the effects of the pandemic on waiting times, and recognises that use of the independent sector by individuals is proportionately lower than that in England or Wales; supports the twin approach of investment and reform of the NHS so that delivery continues to be enhanced, backed by investment founded in progressive taxation; appreciates that the workforce is at the heart of all that the NHS does, and thanks everyone working in the NHS for their dedication, expertise and commitment; believes that the NHS must be kept true to its founding principles of being publicly owned, publicly operated, and free at the point of need, and further believes that the only way to protect the NHS from the threat posed by the UK Government is to realise independence for Scotland.”

Sandesh Gulhane moved amendment S6M-09462.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-09462 in the name of Jackie Baillie (Taking Action on NHS Waiting Times), after “2022-23” insert “; notes with concern that long waits are an issue throughout all aspects of the health service, with cancer waiting times at their worst ever level, A&E targets not being met in three years, and the Scottish Government failing to clear the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) backlog”.

After debate, amendment S6M-09462.2 was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 65, Against 53, Abstentions 0). As a result, amendment S6M-09462.1 was pre-empted.

The motion, as amended, was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 63, Against 55, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament recognises the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on both the people of Scotland directly, and on the operation of the health service; further recognises that too many people are waiting too long for treatment, and welcomes the reductions in the longest waits recently; notes that health services across the four nations are dealing with the effects of the pandemic on waiting times, and recognises that use of the independent sector by individuals is proportionately lower than that in England or Wales; supports the twin approach of investment and reform of the NHS so that delivery continues to be enhanced, backed by investment founded in progressive taxation; appreciates that the workforce is at the heart of all that the NHS does, and thanks everyone working in the NHS for their dedication, expertise and commitment; believes that the NHS must be kept true to its founding principles of being publicly owned, publicly operated, and free at the point of need, and further believes that the only way to protect the NHS from the threat posed by the UK Government is to realise independence for Scotland.

3. A Resilience Fund for CalMac Disruption: Michael Marra moved S6M-09463—That the Parliament instructs the Scottish Government to establish a resilience fund for businesses adversely affected by Caledonian MacBrayne disruption

and withdrawal of services, utilising funds obtained from penalties imposed on Caledonian MacBrayne for breaches of its contract with Transport Scotland.

The Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero and Just Transition (Màiri McAllan) moved amendment S6M-09463.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-09463 in the name of Michael Marra (A Resilience Fund for CalMac Disruption), leave out from “instructs” to end and insert “recognises the significant impact that delays and disruption to ferry services have regrettably had on Scotland's island communities and businesses; acknowledges that some island communities have been particularly badly affected, and also acknowledges the frustration felt by island communities; believes that the Scottish Government must continue to explore all practicable options to support island communities; agrees that the Scottish Government should redouble its efforts to work with operators and CMAL to improve reliability, resilience and confidence across networks and services, and address concerns that have been raised around CalMac's route prioritisation matrix to ensure that it is reviewed, with input from communities, and that it considers the economic impact to fragile island communities; notes that all penalty deductions from CalMac made in relation to failures on the network are used to support resilience and help reduce disruption, for example, by helping to partly fund the cost of the charter of MV Alfred, and believes that accelerating the replacement of major vessels in the ferry fleet must be the priority in order to provide the ferry services that island communities need.”

Graham Simpson moved amendment S6M-09463.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-09463 in the name of Michael Marra (A Resilience Fund for CalMac Disruption), insert at end “; notes the anger expressed by islanders at repeated disruption, which is impacting on business and day-to-day life; calls on the Scottish Government to establish the fund, which should be permanent, without delay, and welcomes the commitment by CalMac to review its route scoring matrix.”

After debate, amendment S6M-09463.2 was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 64, Against 53, Abstentions 0). As a result, amendment S6M-09463.1 was pre-empted.

The motion, as amended, was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 64, Against 53, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament recognises the significant impact that delays and disruption to ferry services have regrettably had on Scotland's island communities and businesses; acknowledges that some island communities have been particularly badly affected, and also acknowledges the frustration felt by island communities; believes that the Scottish Government must continue to explore all practicable options to support island communities; agrees that the Scottish Government should redouble its efforts to work with operators and CMAL to improve reliability, resilience and confidence across networks and services, and address concerns that have been raised around CalMac's

route prioritisation matrix to ensure that it is reviewed, with input from communities, and that it considers the economic impact to fragile island communities; notes that all penalty deductions from CalMac made in relation to failures on the network are used to support resilience and help reduce disruption, for example, by helping to partly fund the cost of the charter of MV Alfred, and believes that accelerating the replacement of major vessels in the ferry fleet must be the priority in order to provide the ferry services that island communities need.

4. Urgent Question: An urgent question, to ask the Scottish Government what its response is to the announcement that Scottish junior doctors have voted overwhelmingly to reject the pay offer made by the Scottish Government and plan to take strike action, was answered by the Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care (Michael Matheson).

5. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-09501—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 20 June 2023

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Ministerial Statement: Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Standards Implementation

followed by Ministerial Statement: Scottish Greenhouse Gas Emissions 2021

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Scottish Innovation Strategy

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 21 June 2023

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands; NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Bail and Release from Custody (Scotland) Bill

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Approval of SSIs (if required)

7.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 22 June 2023

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: Social Justice

followed by Ministerial Statement: Education Reform

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Children (Care and Justice) (Scotland) Bill

followed by Financial Resolution: Children (Care and Justice) (Scotland) Bill

followed by Stage 3 Debate: Bail and Release from Custody (Scotland) Bill

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.25 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 27 June 2023

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

5.20 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 28 June 2023

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Constitution, External Affairs and Culture; Justice and Home Affairs; Education and Skills

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Bill

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Approval of SSIs (if required)

5.25 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 29 June 2023

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

followed by Scottish Government Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

1.15 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

(b) that, for the purposes of Portfolio Questions in the week beginning 19 June 2023, 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.

6. Stage 1 Timetable: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-09502—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Regulation of Legal Services (Scotland) Bill at stage 1 be completed by 15 December 2023.

The motion was agreed to.

7. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-09503—That the Parliament agrees that the Forced Marriage etc. (Protection and Jurisdiction) (Scotland) Act 2011 (Application to Civil Partnerships and Consequential Provision) Order 2023 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

8. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-09504—That the Parliament agrees that the Police Negotiating Board for Scotland (Constitution, Arbitration and Qualifying Cases) Regulations 2023 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

9. Designation of Lead Committee: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-09505—That the Parliament agrees that the Criminal Justice Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the *supplementary* legislative consent memorandum on the Online Safety Bill.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

10. Designation of Lead Committee: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-09524—That the Parliament agrees that the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the Visitor Levy (Scotland) Bill at stage 1.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

11. Committee Membership: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-09538—That the Parliament agrees that Kenneth Gibson be appointed to replace Keith Brown as a member of the Finance and Public Administration Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

12. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 as noted above.

13. Scotland's Liver Cancer Crisis: The Parliament debated S6M-08629 in the name of Stuart McMillan—That the Parliament understands that 90% of liver disease is preventable, but that rising alcohol misuse, obesity and viral hepatitis are reportedly contributing to a liver disease and liver cancer crisis in Scotland; notes reports that liver disease burden is highest in deprived areas, such as those within the Greenock and Inverclyde constituency, which, it understands, had the highest rate of alcohol-specific deaths in 2017-2021, the majority of which were caused by alcohol-related liver disease; highlights what it sees as the importance of prevention and earlier detection of liver cancer, as one of the less survivable cancers, which, it understands, has seen the highest increase in mortality rates of all cancer types in Scotland over the last decade, and commends the work of the British Liver Trust and other charities in promoting the use of intelligent liver function tests and non-invasive liver scans in primary and community care to accelerate earlier detection of liver disease and liver cancer in order to save lives and reduce long-term pressures on the NHS.

The meeting closed at 6.09 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
14 June 2023

Appendix

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 14 June 2023—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 39th Report, 2023 (Session 6): Delegated powers provisions in the Bail and Release from Custody (Scotland) Bill after Stage 2 (SP Paper 401)

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 14 June 2023 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (Amendment) Order 2023 [draft]
laid under section 97(8)(a) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

Other Documents

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 14 June 2023 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Audit Scotland Annual report and accounts 2022/23 year ended 31 March 2023 and independent auditor's report (SP Paper 403) laid under section 25(6) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Published by the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body

All documents are available on
the Scottish Parliament website at:

www.parliament.scot/documents

For information on the Scottish Parliament contact
Public Information on:

Telephone: 0131 348 5000 or 0800 092 7500

Email: sp.info@parliament.scot

Live chat on parliament.scot

You can write to us in any language or contact us
using the Text Relay service or in British Sign

Language through contactScotland-BSL.

© Parliamentary copyright. Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body

The Scottish Parliament's copyright policy can be found on the website -
www.parliament.scot or by contacting Public Information.