



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 1, No. 73, Session 5

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 8 February 2017

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

**1. Portfolio Questions:** Questions on Economy, Jobs and Fair Work and then on Finance and the Constitution were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and a Minister.

**2. The Future of the Jobcentre Plus Network in Scotland:** The Minister for Employability and Training (Jamie Hepburn) moved S5M-3873—That the Parliament is concerned at the impact that the announced closure of up to 23 Jobcentre Plus sites across Scotland by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) will have on people and communities; recognises the negative outcomes on those who need to access Jobcentre Plus sites that these closures will bring; calls on the DWP to provide more detail on the timing, scope and rationale for these closures, alongside equality impact assessments; believes that the terms of paragraph 58 of the Smith Commission Agreement, which sets out that “the UK and Scottish Government will identify ways to further link services through methods such as co-location wherever possible and establish more formal mechanisms to govern the Jobcentre Plus network in Scotland” should have triggered more meaningful dialogue between the DWP and the Scottish Government on the future of Jobcentre Plus sites in Scotland, and calls on the DWP to halt the closures to allow the Scottish Government to bring forward substantive co-location proposals to save these jobcentres.

Adam Tomkins moved amendment S5M-3873.1 to motion S5M-3873—

As an amendment to motion S5M-03873 in the name of Jamie Hepburn (The Future of the Jobcentre Plus Network in Scotland), leave out from “will have” to end and insert “may have on people and communities; calls on the DWP to provide more detail on the timing and scope of these closures, alongside

equality impact assessments; believes that the terms of paragraph 58 of the Smith Commission Agreement, which sets out that ‘the UK and Scottish Government will identify ways to further link services through methods such as co-location wherever possible and establish more formal mechanisms to govern the Jobcentre Plus network in Scotland’ should have triggered more meaningful dialogue between the DWP and the Scottish Government; recognises that such dialogue is a two-way process, and calls on the Scottish Government to make plain its proposals as to how Skills Development Scotland or the proposed Scottish social security agency could co-locate or otherwise link with the existing Jobcentre Plus network.”

After debate, amendment S5M-3873.1 was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 30, Against 91, Abstentions 0).

The motion was then agreed to ((DT) by division: For 91, Against 30, Abstentions 0).

**3. Business Motion:** Joe FitzPatrick, on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S5M-3901—That the Parliament agrees the following programme of business—

Tuesday 21 February 2017

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Topical Questions (if selected)

*followed by* Ministerial Statement: National Review of Maternity and Neonatal Services

*followed by* Scottish Government Debate: Scottish Rate Resolution

*followed by* Scottish Government Debate: Appointments to the Scottish Fiscal Commission

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members’ Business

Wednesday 22 February 2017

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions

Rural Economy and Connectivity;

Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform

*followed by* Ministerial Statement: Scottish Government Response to Social Security Consultation

*followed by* Scottish Government Debate: The Scottish Patient Safety Programme

*followed by* Legislative Consent Motion: Digital Economy Bill – UK Legislation

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members’ Business

Thursday 23 February 2017

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions  
11.40 am General Questions  
12.00 pm First Minister's Questions  
12.45 pm Members' Business  
2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions  
2.30 pm Stage 3 Proceedings: Budget (Scotland) Bill  
*followed by* Business Motions  
*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions  
5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 28 February 2017

2.00 pm Time for Reflection  
*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions  
*followed by* Topical Questions (if selected)  
*followed by* Scottish Government Business  
*followed by* Business Motions  
*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions  
5.00 pm Decision Time  
*followed by* Members' Business

Wednesday 1 March 2017

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions  
2.00 pm Portfolio Questions  
Culture, Tourism and External Affairs;  
Justice and the Law Officers  
*followed by* Scottish Government Business  
*followed by* Business Motions  
*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions  
5.00 pm Decision Time  
*followed by* Members' Business

Thursday 2 March 2017

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions  
11.40 am General Questions  
12.00 pm First Minister's Questions  
12.45 pm Members' Business  
2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions  
2.30 pm Scottish Government Business  
*followed by* Business Motions  
*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm

Decision Time

The motion was agreed to.

**4. Parliamentary Bureau Motions:** Joe FitzPatrick, on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved—

**S5M-3902: Approval of SSI—**That the Parliament agrees that the Scottish Social Housing Charter be approved.

**S5M-3904: Suspension and Variation of Standing Orders—**That the Parliament agrees that Rule 9.10.2A of Standing Orders be suspended and the following be substituted as alternative provision for the purposes of consideration of the Budget (Scotland) Bill at Stage 3—

“2A. Subject to paragraph 6, where a member of the Scottish Government or a junior Scottish Minister intends to move an amendment to the Budget (Scotland) Bill at Stage 3, that member shall give notice of the amendment by lodging it with the Clerk no later than 16:30 on Friday 10 February 2017. Amendments may be lodged until 16:30 on any day when the office of the Clerk is open.”

**S5M-3903: Designation of Lead Committee—**That the Parliament agrees that the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the Contract (Third Party Rights) (Scotland) Bill at stage 1.

**S5M-3906: Designation of Lead Committee—**That the Parliament agrees that the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the legislative consent memorandum in relation to the Farriers (Registration) Bill (UK Legislation).

The motions were agreed to (DT).

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

**6. The Jimmy Reid Foundation Report, Trident and its Successor Programme:** The Parliament debated S5M-2776 in the name of Bill Kidd—That the Parliament welcomes the recent report by the Jimmy Reid Foundation, *Trident and its Successor Programme*, and congratulates its joint-authors, Mike Danson, Karen Gilmore and Geoff Whittam; believes that it succinctly puts the case for non-renewal of Trident; understands that the authors based this on employment diversification and the moral, philosophical, economic and defence case for abandoning any proposal for what the UK Government terms as the successor weapons programme, which it plans to continue at HMNB Faslane/Coulport, and believes that its continued presence would be a threat to Glasgow and the majority of Scotland’s population.

**Motion Without Notice:** Bill Kidd moved without notice that, under Rule 8.14.3, the debate be extended by up to 30 minutes. The motion was agreed to.

The meeting closed at 6.22 pm.

**P E Grice**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
8 February 2017

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