



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 2, No. 2, Session 5

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 17 May 2017

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. UK Government Restrictions for 18 to 21-year-olds Accessing Financial Support for Housing: The Parliament debated S5M-04643 in the name of Ben Macpherson—That the Parliament expresses concern at its understanding that 18 to 21-year-olds in Edinburgh and across Scotland will face restrictions in accessing financial support for housing from 1 April 2017; notes the calls on the UK Government to reconsider what it believes is its ill-conceived and harmful plans that will increase the likelihood of young people being made homeless and undermine the preventative approach to homelessness taken by local and national government in Scotland; believes that these changes are being imposed while discussions continue between the UK and Scottish governments on how the policy can be fully mitigated within existing powers; notes its disappointment with the UK Government's short timescale for change despite assurances that options for Scotland would be considered further, which it believes makes it impossible for full mitigation arrangements to be put in place before this change comes into force; acknowledges the report, *The withdrawal of support for housing costs under Universal Credit for young people: more pain for little gain?*, from the homelessness charity Crisis, and Sheffield Hallam University, which suggests that many of those affected are "likely to be made more vulnerable, less secure and less able to rebuild their relationship with their parents or to keep or find a job than they were before"; notes the research of Heriot-Watt University, which estimates that, if more than 140 young people are made homeless, the policy will cost the UK Government more than the estimated and supposed savings, and believes that not all young people have the option of living with their parents and, for those who may be in a desperate or difficult situation and facing homelessness, housing support can provide stability, security and enable them to lead independent and fulfilling lives.

2. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Communities, Social Security and Equalities were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and Ministers.

3. Fisheries: Peter Chapman moved S5M-05603—That the Parliament believes that the Scottish fishing industry is vital to Scotland’s culture and economy, and is a bedrock of many communities across the country; recognises the opportunity that leaving the EU offers to create a fit-for-purpose and tailor-made fisheries management regime that better suits the needs of Scottish fishing; acknowledges the potential to restore control of access to UK waters, enabling a fairer distribution of fishing opportunities in the future, and believes that Scotland must not return to the common fisheries policy.

The Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity (Fergus Ewing) moved amendment S5M-05603.3—

As an amendment to motion S5M-05603 in the name of Peter Chapman (Fisheries), leave out from “recognises” to end and insert “notes that the present common fisheries policy is not delivering a sustainable fishing industry in Scotland; is disappointed at the lack of clarity from the UK Government on future funding to replace the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF), its failure to guarantee tariff and customs-free exports to the EU single market and to provide assurances that EU nationals and their families working in the fishing sector may remain in Scotland; regrets that the UK Government’s White Paper makes clear its intention to allow EU boats access to Scotland’s waters as of right, which would be detrimental to Scottish fishing interests; recognises the need to put sustainable development and a science-led, ecosystem approach at the heart of all marine and fisheries policies to create a viable future for fishing in Scottish waters to enable coastal communities and the marine environment to thrive, whatever the future holds; notes that fisheries are best managed at a level closest to citizens and communities, and agrees that all powers on fisheries should be devolved to the Scottish Parliament to enable the design of a management framework best suited to Scottish needs and the interests of Scotland’s fishing industry and sector, including through the commitment to a Fisheries Bill.”

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 83, Against 27, Abstentions 1).

Rhoda Grant moved amendment S5M-05603.2—

As an amendment to motion S5M-05603 in the name of Peter Chapman (Fisheries), insert at end “; believes that there are challenges to be overcome in order to allow Scotland’s fish to be sold in European markets, including the need to ensure that import controls are not bureaucratic in order to allow them to be sold fresh into that market; understands that Scotland must also continue to negotiate management of its seas with the EU, Norway, the Faroes and Iceland to ensure that the whole of the fishery is managed sustainably, as fish know no borders, and believes that repatriated powers should be devolved.”

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 83, Against 27, Abstentions 1).

The motion, as amended, was then agreed to ((DT) by division: For 83, Against 27, Abstentions 1).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—That the Parliament believes that the Scottish fishing industry is vital to Scotland’s culture and economy, and is a bedrock of many communities across the country; notes that the present common fisheries policy is not delivering a sustainable fishing industry in Scotland; is disappointed at the lack of clarity from the UK Government on future funding to replace the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF), its failure to guarantee tariff and customs-free exports to the EU single market and to provide assurances that EU nationals and their families working in the fishing sector may remain in Scotland; regrets that the UK Government’s White Paper makes clear its intention to allow EU boats access to Scotland’s waters as of right, which would be detrimental to Scottish fishing interests; recognises the need to put sustainable development and a science-led, ecosystem approach at the heart of all marine and fisheries policies to create a viable future for fishing in Scottish waters to enable coastal communities and the marine environment to thrive, whatever the future holds; notes that fisheries are best managed at a level closest to citizens and communities; agrees that all powers on fisheries should be devolved to the Scottish Parliament to enable the design of a management framework best suited to Scottish needs and the interests of Scotland’s fishing industry and sector, including through the commitment to a Fisheries Bill; believes that there are challenges to be overcome in order to allow Scotland’s fish to be sold in European markets, including the need to ensure that import controls are not bureaucratic in order to allow them to be sold fresh into that market; understands that Scotland must also continue to negotiate management of its seas with the EU, Norway, the Faroes and Iceland to ensure that the whole of the fishery is managed sustainably, as fish know no borders, and believes that repatriated powers should be devolved.

4. Teacher Training Programme: Liz Smith moved S5M-05595—That the Parliament is concerned by the recent evidence presented to the Education and Skills Committee by trainee teachers, which revealed some serious concerns about the teacher training programme in Scotland, specifically about the organisation of teacher trainee placements and some perceived gaps in the programme regarding supporting trainees in learning key skills for the classroom; believes that these problems are, in some key areas, having a detrimental impact on the preparedness of trainees to meet the challenges of the curriculum for excellence and their ability to deliver better teaching in literacy and numeracy, and calls on the Scottish Government to work with the teacher training institutions and the General Teaching Council for Scotland to take urgent action to implement the necessary improvements to the teacher training programme in Scotland.

The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills (John Swinney) moved amendment S5M-05595.2—

As an amendment to motion S5M-05595 in the name of Liz Smith (Teacher Training Programme), insert at end “, and, in acknowledging and valuing the vital role and contribution that new and existing teachers make to children’s

education, agrees to engage with local authorities, as teachers' employers, to ensure that all teachers are confident in teaching literacy and numeracy."

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

Iain Gray moved amendment S5M-05595.1—

As an amendment to motion S5M-05595 in the name of Liz Smith (Teacher Training Programme), after "literacy and numeracy" insert "; further believes that more initial teacher training in the support of pupils facing particular challenges, such as living in care or with adoptive families, could help close the attainment gap".

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

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

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—That the Parliament is concerned by the recent evidence presented to the Education and Skills Committee by trainee teachers, which revealed some serious concerns about the teacher training programme in Scotland, specifically about the organisation of teacher trainee placements and some perceived gaps in the programme regarding supporting trainees in learning key skills for the classroom; believes that these problems are, in some key areas, having a detrimental impact on the preparedness of trainees to meet the challenges of the curriculum for excellence and their ability to deliver better teaching in literacy and numeracy; further believes that more initial teacher training in the support of pupils facing particular challenges, such as living in care or with adoptive families, could help close the attainment gap; calls on the Scottish Government to work with the teacher training institutions and the General Teaching Council for Scotland to take urgent action to implement the necessary improvements to the teacher training programme in Scotland, and, in acknowledging and valuing the vital role and contribution that new and existing teachers make to children's education, agrees to engage with local authorities, as teachers' employers, to ensure that all teachers are confident in teaching literacy and numeracy.

5. Business Motion: Joe FitzPatrick, on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S5M-05637—That the Parliament agrees the following programme of business—

Tuesday 23 May 2017

2.00 pm	Time for Reflection
<i>followed by</i>	Parliamentary Bureau Motions
<i>followed by</i>	Member's Oath/Affirmation
<i>followed by</i>	Topical Questions (if selected)
<i>followed by</i>	Stage 1 Debate: Seat Belts on School Transport (Scotland) Bill
<i>followed by</i>	Business Motions
<i>followed by</i>	Parliamentary Bureau Motions
5.00 pm	Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 24 May 2017

1.15 pm Members' Business

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions
Economy, Jobs and Fair Work;
Finance and the Constitution

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Safe, Secure and Prosperous: Achieving a Cyber-resilient Scotland

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 25 May 2017

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 Stage 1 Debate: Contract (Third Party Rights) (Scotland) Bill

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 30 May 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 31 May 2017

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions
Rural Economy and Connectivity;
Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform

followed by Scottish Government Business

followed by Business Motions
followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions
5.00 pm Decision Time
followed by Members' Business
Thursday 1 June 2017
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 Scottish Government Business
followed by Business Motions
followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions
5.00 pm Decision Time

The motion was agreed to.

6. Business Motion: Joe FitzPatrick, on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S5M-05638—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Railway Policing (Scotland) Bill at stage 2 be completed by 9 June 2017.

The motion was agreed to.

7. Designation of Lead Committee: Joe FitzPatrick, on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved—

S5M-05640—That the Parliament agrees that the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the Wild Animals in Travelling Circuses (Scotland) Bill at stage 1.

S5M-05641—That the Parliament agrees that the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the Forestry and Land Management (Scotland) Bill at stage 1.

The motions were agreed to (DT).

8. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on item 3, 4 and 7 as noted above.

9. Neurofibromatosis Awareness Day: The Parliament debated S5M-04137 in the name of Ash Denham—That the Parliament appreciates that 17 May 2017 is Neurofibromatosis Awareness Day; notes that neurofibromatosis (NF) is a genetic disorder that causes tumours to grow on the nerves and that tumours can develop anywhere in the nervous system, including the brain, spinal cord and nerves; further notes that there is no known cure for the condition, which people are born with due to a genetic mutation; recognises that, while 1 in 3,000 people are currently

diagnosed with the condition, many go undiagnosed due to a lack of awareness; considers that, despite NF being one of the most common genetic disorders, people, including many parents, often find themselves telling GPs what their condition or that of their children is; notes that NF is a progressive condition and can cause a variety of problems, including physical and learning difficulties and mental health issues, and is also linked to autism; appreciates that people have concerns that, due to lack of awareness, those affected may not receive the correct treatment in time, and notes hopes that across all UK NHS boards, including NHS Lothian, NF patients will receive regular routine monitoring by specialists, in memory of the incredibly determined, Beth Beattie, who sadly passed away on 4 November 2016, aged four-years-old.

The meeting closed at 5.51 pm.

P E Grice
Clerk of the Parliament
17 May 2017

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

Negative instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 17 May 2017 and is subject to the negative procedure—

Inquiries into Fatal Accidents and Sudden Deaths etc. (Scotland) Act 2016 (Consequential Provisions) Regulations 2017 (SSI 2017/156)
laid under section 41(2)(b)(ii) of the Inquiries into Fatal Accidents and Sudden Deaths etc. (Scotland) Act 2016

Laid only instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 17 May 2017 and is not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Inquiries into Fatal Accidents and Sudden Deaths etc. (Scotland) Act 2016 (Commencement No. 3, Transitional and Saving Provisions) Regulations 2017 (SSI 2017/155 (C.13))
laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

Committee Reports

The following report is being published today 17 May 2017:

Scottish Parliament Statistics Volume 2015 - 2016, SP Paper 144

The following Reports is being published on 18 May 2017:

Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee, 6th Report, 2017 (Session 5): Subordinate Legislation (SP Paper 142)

Health and Sport Committee, 7th Report, 2017 (Session 5): Subordinate Legislation (SP Paper 146)

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