



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 2, No. 16, Session 5

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 21 June 2017

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Motor Neurone Disease Global Awareness Day: The Parliament debated S5M-05761 in the name of Christina McKelvie—That the Parliament notes the work of Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Scotland and the Global MND Awareness Day, which takes place on 21 June 2017; further notes the Parliamentary reception, which is sponsored by MND Scotland, taking place in the evening that day; greatly commends MND Scotland for its inspiring and life-changing work in searching for a cure for the disease; pays tribute to the late campaigner, Gordon Aikman, who raised over £600,000 in the pursuit of finding a cure; notes the recently introduced £25,000 Gordon Aikman Scholarship from the Scottish Government, which will fund individuals and professionals to develop practical improvements to the way care is provided to people with MND; believes that this fund will help people with MND in the Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse constituency and throughout Scotland; reiterates its praise for the work of MND Scotland, and hopes that there is as great a support as possible for MND Scotland's Global MND Awareness Day 2017.

2. Suspension of Standing Orders: Joe FitzPatrick, on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S5M-06270—That the Parliament agrees that, for the purpose of consideration of the Prohibited Procedures on Protected Animals (Exemptions) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2017 [draft], in Rule 10.6.5 of the Standing Orders, the second and third sentences are suspended.

The motion was agreed to.

3. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Health and Sport were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and Ministers.

4. Freedom of Information Requests: Edward Mountain moved S5M-06126— That the Parliament condemns the Scottish Government’s poor performance in responding to freedom of information requests; calls for an independent inquiry into the way that it deals with these, and agrees to undertake post-legislative scrutiny of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

The Minister for Parliamentary Business (Joe FitzPatrick) moved amendment S5M-06126.1—

As an amendment to motion S5M-06126 in the name of Edward Mountain (Freedom of Information Requests), insert at end “, and welcomes commitments by the Scottish Government to adopt a policy of pro-actively publishing all material released under FOI to ensure that it is as widely available as possible.”

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

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

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—That the Parliament condemns the Scottish Government’s poor performance in responding to freedom of information requests; calls for an independent inquiry into the way that it deals with these; agrees to undertake post-legislative scrutiny of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, and welcomes commitments by the Scottish Government to adopt a policy of pro-actively publishing all material released under FOI to ensure that it is as widely available as possible.

5. Agriculture: Peter Chapman moved S5M-06186—That the Parliament notes the findings of Audit Scotland’s June 2017 update on the common agricultural policy (CAP) futures programme; notes that it highlights significant further work to be carried out on the CAP IT system; is concerned by the lack of detailed assessment of risk from financial penalties and the potential for up to £60 million in EU fines if the system is non-compliant; urges the Scottish Government to take swift action to develop a disaster recovery plan to cover the whole IT system; believes a clear plan for the transfer of knowledge to new staff must be developed, and is further concerned that the system will not be functioning as anticipated until 2018 at the earliest and will not deliver value for money.

The Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity (Fergus Ewing) moved amendment S5M-06186.4—

As an amendment to motion S5M-06186 in the name of Peter Chapman (Agriculture), leave out from second “notes” to end and insert “; agrees that the biggest threat to Scottish agriculture remains the UK’s departure from the EU, withdrawal from the CAP and the loss of membership of the single market; recognises the need to develop a sustainable system of future rural support beyond 2020 that invests in and supports the best possible environmental and productivity outcomes for agriculture; calls on the UK Government to agree to continue to ensure that Scotland receives the same share of future funding as it does now under CAP to allow farmers, crofters and rural businesses to know as

early as possible what financial support will be available, and believes that any further investment must ensure that the current CAP IT system is future-proofed to deliver such post-Brexit support.”

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 61, Against 57, Abstentions 6).

Rhoda Grant moved amendment S5M-06186.1—

As an amendment to motion S5M-06186 in the name of Peter Chapman (Agriculture), insert at end “; is concerned that after a year in post the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Connectivity has not ‘fixed it’ as promised, neither has it been his foremost priority, and calls on the Scottish Government to fully disclose all information with regard to the fiasco, including the Fujitsu report.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 57, Against 61, Abstentions 6).

The motion, as amended, was then agreed to ((DT) by division: For 80, Against 36, Abstentions 8).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—That the Parliament notes the findings of Audit Scotland’s June 2017 update on the common agricultural policy (CAP) futures programme; agrees that the biggest threat to Scottish agriculture remains the UK’s departure from the EU, withdrawal from the CAP and the loss of membership of the single market; recognises the need to develop a sustainable system of future rural support beyond 2020 that invests in and supports the best possible environmental and productivity outcomes for agriculture; calls on the UK Government to agree to continue to ensure that Scotland receives the same share of future funding as it does now under CAP to allow farmers, crofters and rural businesses to know as early as possible what financial support will be available, and believes that any further investment must ensure that the current CAP IT system is future-proofed to deliver such post-Brexit support.

6. Business Motion: Joe FitzPatrick, on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S5M-06242—That the Parliament agrees the following programme of business—

Tuesday 27 June 2017

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Railway Policing (Scotland) Bill

followed by Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body Motion on the Appointment of a New Scottish Information Commissioner

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 28 June 2017

1.15 pm Members' Business

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions

Communities, Social Security and Equalities

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Education Governance Next Steps

followed by Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee Motion: Code of Conduct for MSPs and Written Statement Revision

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 29 June 2017

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

followed by Debate on the Commission on Parliamentary Reform's Report on the Scottish Parliament

2.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 5 September 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 6 September 2017

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions

Finance and Constitution;

Economy, Jobs and Fair Work

followed by Scottish Government Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 7 September 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.

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

S5M-06243 Committee Membership—That the Parliament agrees that Rachael Hamilton be appointed as a member of the Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee.

S5M-06245 Designation of Lead Committee—That the Parliament agrees that the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the Islands (Scotland) Bill at stage 1.

S5M-06246 Designation of Lead Committee—That the Parliament agrees that the Equalities and Human Rights Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the Gender Representation on Public Boards (Scotland) Bill at stage 1.

S5M-06250 Office of the Clerk—That the Parliament agrees that, between 3 January 2018 and 31 January 2019, the Office of the Clerk will be open on all days except: Saturdays and Sundays, 30 March and 2 April 2018, 7 May 2018, 25 and 28 May 2018, 14 September 2018, 30 November 2018, 24 December (pm), 25 and 26 December 2018, and 1 and 2 January 2019.

S5M-06251 Parliamentary Recess Dates—That the Parliament agrees the following parliamentary recess dates under Rule 2.3.1, 10 to 18 February 2018 (inclusive), 31 March to 15 April 2018 (inclusive), 30 June to 2 September 2018 (inclusive), 6 to 21 October 2018 (inclusive) and 22 December 2018 to 6 January 2019 (inclusive).

S5M-06253 Approval of SSI—That the Parliament agrees that the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010 (Consequential Provisions) Order 2017 [draft] be approved.

S5M-06254 Approval of SSI—That the Parliament agrees that the Mental Health (Cross-border transfer: patients subject to detention requirement or

otherwise in hospital) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2017 [draft] be approved.

S5M-06255 Approval of SSI—That the Parliament agrees that the Mental Health (Cross-border transfer: patients subject to requirements other than detention) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 [draft] be approved.

S5M-06256 Approval of SSI—That the Parliament agrees that the Mental Health (Cross-border Visits) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2017 [draft] be approved.

The motions were agreed to (DT).

8. Approval of SSI: Joe FitzPatrick, on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S5M-06257—That the Parliament agrees that the Prohibited Procedures on Protected Animals (Exemptions) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2017 [draft] be approved.

After debate, the motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 86, Against 29, Abstentions 9).

9. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on item 4, 5, 7 and 8 as noted above.

10. Stroke Care in Scotland: The Parliament debated S5M-05474 in the name of Alexander Stewart—That the Parliament understands that, every year, 14,000 people in Scotland experience stroke, which is the third most common cause of death and the most common cause of severe physical disability among adults; believes that stroke patients account for 7% of all NHS beds and that treatment for the condition takes up 5% of the NHS budget; considers that there is well-established evidence demonstrating the benefits of organised specialist care in improving outcomes; notes the recent SIGN guidelines that focus on acute care and secondary prevention and emphasise the importance of providing access to specialist services quickly; understands that there has been a welcome long-term downward trend in mortality rates, with a 39% decrease between 2006 and 2016; considers that the challenge now is that more people than ever, around 124,000, are living with the long-term effects of stroke, half of whom have a disability; notes that, in the most deprived areas, the mortality rate in 2015 for such cerebrovascular diseases was 42.3% higher than the least deprived; recognises that people in remote and rural areas can face issues in accessing clinical care, including access to thrombectomy, which is unavailable outside Edinburgh and Glasgow as there are only three clinicians trained to carry out this procedure in Scotland, compared with over 80 in England and Wales; notes the view that greater investment would help tackle what it sees as this inequity; believes that, outside the work of the recognised charities, only NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde and NHS Tayside offer specialist follow-up nursing, but with more limited scope and timescales; understands that stroke nurses provide flexible and holistic support that covers health, wellbeing, socialisation, vocational rehabilitation and advice on financial issues, and notes the opinion that there is an urgent need for further investment in high quality aftercare, more stroke nurses and support systems and pathways in place in communities in Mid Scotland and Fife and

across the country to keep survivors active in order to improve recovery, wellbeing and to aid secondary prevention.

The meeting closed at 6.06 pm.

P E Grice
Clerk of the Parliament
21 June 2017

Appendix

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

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on the 21st June 2017 and are not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

HMICS Thematic Inspection of the Scottish Police Authority – Phase 1 Review of Openness and Transparency: HMICS/2017/03 laid under section 79(3) of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012

Scotland's Colleges 2017 - A report prepared for the Auditor General for Scotland: AGS/2017/4 laid under the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act

Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Compendium of Case Reports for June 2017: SPSO/2017/06 laid under Sections 15(1) and 15(1A) of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002

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