



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 3, No. 53, Session 5

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 28 November 2018

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Culture, Tourism and External Affairs and then on Government Business and Constitutional Relations were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and Ministers.

2. New Approach Needed to Tackle Scotland's Drugs Crisis: Miles Briggs moved S5M-14914—That the Parliament recognises the drug-related public health crisis; understands that the number of people engaged in problematic use of opiates and/or benzodiazepines has increased since 2007, with 934 fatalities recorded in 2017, and that Scotland now has the highest drug death rate in Europe; considers that the Scottish Government's draft drug and alcohol strategy, All Together Now, is not fit for purpose, and that it will not deliver the additional capacity or intervention needed to reduce Scotland's damaging drug and alcohol levels, and recognises that a new approach is needed to tackle this crisis.

The Minister for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing (Joe FitzPatrick) moved amendment S5M-14914.2—

As an amendment to S5M-14914 in the name of Miles Briggs (New Approach Needed to Tackle Scotland's Drugs Crisis), leave out from "drug-related" to end and insert "public health crisis related to the harm associated with the use of opiates and/or benzodiazepines and other drugs; further recognises that the harm has increased since 2007, with 934 fatalities recorded in 2017; believes that Scotland needs a drug and alcohol strategy founded on the principles of rights, recovery and respect, and which places public health at its heart and does not stigmatise those seeking recovery or harm reduction, and calls on the

UK Government to make the necessary changes to the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 to allow the creation of a medically supervised safe consumption facility in Glasgow, or empower the Scottish Parliament to do so.”

Monica Lennon moved amendment S5M-14914.3—

As an amendment to motion S5M-14914 in the name of Miles Briggs (New Approach Needed to Tackle Scotland’s Drugs Crisis), leave out from “related” to end and insert “and alcohol-related public health crisis; understands that the number of people engaged in problematic use of opiates and/or benzodiazepines has increased since 2007, with 934 fatalities recorded in 2017, and that Scotland now has the highest drug death rate in Europe, and calls on to the Scottish Government to take an evidence-based approach and declare this a “public health emergency” as called for by the Scottish Drugs Forum; considers that the Scottish Government’s draft drug and alcohol strategy, All Together Now, is not fit for purpose, and that it will not deliver the additional capacity or intervention needed to reduce Scotland’s damaging drug and alcohol levels, and recognises that a new approach is needed to tackle this crisis; accepts that the stigma experienced by people with alcohol and drug issues and their families is a barrier to recovery and believes that the strategy must go further to address this in order to achieve long-lasting culture change; believes that greater priority must be placed on preventative action, harm reduction and reducing health inequalities to help people avoid harmful substance use in the first place; recognises that a commitment to reducing alcohol- and drug-related deaths and poor health outcomes must be backed by sustainable funding for alcohol and drug partnerships and strong public services; calls for the new strategy to include a target to reduce the number of drug-related deaths by 50% in the next five years and in line with the World Health Organization’s Global Status Report on Non-Communicable Diseases 2014; agrees that the Scottish Government should adopt a national target to reduce population alcohol consumption in Scotland by at least 10% over the next 10 years, and recognises that there are distinct needs in relation to alcohol that require specialist responses, including acute alcohol withdrawal, foetal alcohol spectrum disorder, alcohol-related brain damage, liver scanning and alcohol brief interventions, which should be reflected in the Scottish Government’s forthcoming action plan.”

After debate, amendment S5M-14914.2 was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 85, Against 32, Abstentions 0). As a result, amendment S5M-14914.3 was pre-empted.

The motion, as amended, was then agreed to ((DT) by division: For 89, Against 28, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—That the Parliament recognises the public health crisis related to the harm associated with the use of opiates and/or benzodiazepines and other drugs; further recognises that the harm has increased since 2007, with 934 fatalities recorded in 2017; believes that Scotland needs a drug and alcohol strategy founded on the principles of rights, recovery and respect, and which places public health at its heart and does not stigmatise those seeking recovery or harm reduction, and calls on the UK Government to make the necessary changes to the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 to allow the creation of a medically

supervised safe consumption facility in Glasgow, or empower the Scottish Parliament to do so.

3. Business Motion: Graeme Dey, on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S5M-14958— That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 4 December 2018

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Public Petitions Committee debate: PE1463 on thyroid and adrenal testing, diagnosis and treatment

followed by Scottish Government Debate: A Strategy for our Veterans – taking it forward in Scotland

followed by Counter-Terrorism and Border Security Bill (UK Legislation)

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 5 December 2018

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Education and Skills

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Protecting Our Interests: Scotland's Response to the UK Government and EU's Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 6 December 2018

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: Health and Care (Staffing) (Scotland) Bill

followed by Financial Resolution - Health and Care (Staffing) (Scotland) Bill

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 11 December 2018

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

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 12 December 2018

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Health and Sport

followed by Scottish Government Business

followed by Final Stage Proceedings: Pow of Inchaffray Drainage Commission (Scotland) Bill

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 13 December 2018

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 Government Debate

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

(b) that, in relation to any debate on a business motion setting out a business programme taken on Wednesday 5 December 2018, the second sentence of rule 8.11.3 is suspended and replaced with "Any Member may speak on the motion at the discretion of the Presiding Officer"

(c) that, in relation to First Minister's Questions on Thursday 6 December 2018, in rule 13.6.2, insert at end "and may provide an opportunity for Party Leaders or their representatives to question the First Minister".

The motion was agreed to.

4. Business Motion: Graeme Dey, on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S5M-14959—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Bill at Stage 2 be completed by Friday 1 February 2019.

The motion was agreed to.

5. Parliamentary Bureau Motions: Graeme Dey, on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved—

S5M-14960 Committee Size—That the Parliament agrees, further to motion S5M-13781, that the size of the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee be reduced from 9 to 7 members.

S5M-14981 Committee Meeting Times—That the Parliament agrees that, under Rule 12.3.3B of Standing Orders, the Finance and Constitution Committee and the Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee can meet jointly during the afternoon meeting of the Parliament after First Minister's Questions on Thursday 29

November 2018 for the purpose of considering business arising from the UK's exit from the European Union.

The motions were agreed to (DT).

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

7. Planned Bank of Scotland Branch Closures: The Parliament debated S5M-14782 in the name of Sandra White—That the Parliament condemns the Bank of Scotland's intention to close seven branches across the country; understands that thousands of Bank of Scotland customers who depend on branches in Burnside, Dundee, Keith, Kirriemuir, Lossiemouth, Paisley, Stonehouse and Glasgow St George's Cross in the Glasgow Kelvin constituency will be negatively affected by the closures; considers that there is a need for a continued face-to-face banking service in local communities for those who remain reliant on high street branches, and believes that national banks have a duty to fully consult their customers before making such critical decisions.

The meeting closed at 5.53 pm.

P E Grice
Clerk of the Parliament
28 November 2018

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

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 28 November 2018:

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 60th Report 2018 (Session 5) Subordinate legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 27 November 2018 (SP Paper 436)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 61st Report 2018 (Session 5) Fuel Poverty (Target, Definition and Strategy) (Scotland) bill: Stage 1 (SP Paper 437)

For further information on accessing committee reports, please contact the relevant clerk or webpage (see end of Bulletin for contact details or access general committee webpage)

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 28 November 2018 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure-

Information Sharing Code of Practice - Code of Practice for public authorities disclosing information under Chapters 1, 3 and 4 (Public Service Delivery, Debt and Fraud) of Part 5 of the Digital Economy Act 2017 SG/2018/253 under Sections 43 (12)(a), 52(12)(a) and 60(12)(a) of the Digital Economy Act 2017

UK Statistics Authority Research Code of Practice and Accreditation Criteria UKSA/2018/02, laid under the Digital Economy Act 2017 (Section 70)

UK Statistics Authority Statistics Statement of Principles and Code of Practice on Changes to Data Systems UKSA/2018/03 laid under the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 (Section 45E)

Northern Lighthouse Board Annual Report and Accounts 2017-18 SG/2018/257 laid under Section 55 of the Scotland Act 2016

Published by the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body

All documents are available on
the Scottish Parliament website at:

www.scottish.parliament.uk/documents

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