



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 1, No. 78, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 3 February 2022

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

The meeting opened at 11.40 am.

- 1. General Questions:** Questions were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.
- 2. First Minister's Questions:** Questions were answered by the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon).
- 3. Revitalising Coastal Communities:** The Parliament debated S6M-02692 in the name of Ariane Burgess—That the Parliament recognises what it sees as the importance of restoring Scotland's coastal environment to tackle the climate and nature emergencies; considers that nature restoration presents economic opportunities for coastal communities; believes that communities must be at the heart of nature restoration and the stewardship of their environment; commends the work of the Coastal Communities Network, which consists of 19 community groups across Scotland, and which, it understands, works to preserve and protect the marine environment and to promote sustainable economic activity, based on this natural asset; celebrates, in particular, the community-led seagrass and oyster bed restoration at Loch Craignish, and recognises the potential for further community-led nature restoration across Scotland's coastlines.
- 4. Portfolio Questions:** Questions on Rural Affairs and Islands were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.
- 5. Cost of Living:** Jackie Baillie moved S6M-03042—That the Parliament recognises the pressure being placed on household finances across Scotland due to

rising inflation, increasing food and fuel prices, and high energy bills; considers that this will be exacerbated by the increase to National Insurance, the likely hike to the energy price cap in April 2022, and the rises in Scotland to rail fares and water charges, which it calls on the Scottish Government to review and defer; supports the calls for the UK Government to cut VAT on home energy bills for 12 months; endorses proposals to save most households around £200 on bills using that VAT cut and smoothing the costs of supplier failure, as well as to provide extra targeted support to those who need it most, including pensioners and low earners, by expanding and increasing the Warm Home Discount, giving those households an additional £400 off energy bills, and agrees that this should be paid for by a one-off windfall tax on increased oil and gas profits.

The Minister for Just Transition, Employment and Fair Work (Richard Lochhead) moved amendment S6M-03042.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-03042 in the name of Jackie Baillie (Cost of Living), leave out from "the rises" to end and insert "notes these are related to reserved powers; supports the Scottish Government's calls for the UK Government to take urgent action on a package of measures to address home energy bills; welcomes the significant action that the Scottish Government has taken to reduce the cost of living through measures including the introduction of free bus travel to under-22s, the increased water charges reduction scheme discount, the introduction, extension and doubling of the Scottish Child Payment, the more than £2.5 billion invested in support for low-income households, and the increase in free childcare, and agrees that further power in the hands of the Parliament would enable it to address the cost of living, energy prices, and minimum wage levels."

Liz Smith moved amendment S6M-03042.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-03042 in the name of Jackie Baillie (Cost of Living), leave out from "and defer" to end and insert "; believes that the Scottish Government should deliver a fair settlement to local government to avoid households being hit with council tax increases in April; welcomes UK Government action to increase the Living Wage, raise the Personal Allowance, reduce unemployment and freeze Fuel Duty, and calls on both of Scotland's governments to take further action to support individuals and families at this difficult time."

After debate, the amendment S6M-03042.2 was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 68, Against 53, Abstentions 0). As a result, amendment S6M-3042.1 was pre-empted.

The motion, as amended, was then agreed to ((DT) by division: For 69, Against 52, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament recognises the pressure being placed on household finances across Scotland due to rising inflation, increasing food and fuel prices, and high energy bills; considers that this will be exacerbated by the increase to National Insurance, the

likely hike to the energy price cap in April 2022, and notes these are related to reserved powers; supports the Scottish Government's calls for the UK Government to take urgent action on a package of measures to address home energy bills; welcomes the significant action that the Scottish Government has taken to reduce the cost of living through measures including the introduction of free bus travel to under-22s, the increased water charges reduction scheme discount, the introduction, extension and doubling of the Scottish Child Payment, the more than £2.5 billion invested in support for low-income households, and the increase in free childcare, and agrees that further power in the hands of the Parliament would enable it to address the cost of living, energy prices, and minimum wage levels.

6. A People's ScotRail: Neil Bibby moved S6M-03044—That the Parliament welcomes the return of ScotRail to the public sector; considers the new public sector operator to be critical in securing modal shift and affordable, accessible and reliable rail services for Scotland's passengers; condemns, therefore, the current plans for ticket office cuts and closures, service reductions, and the recent 3.8% increase in fares, which undermine progress towards net zero, modal shift and service improvement; considers that the new ScotRail, which will be under public ownership, must provide well-staffed, world-class services, and calls on the Scottish Government to rule out compulsory redundancies or any dilution of collective bargaining under the new operator, and further calls on the Scottish Government to reject tickets office cuts and closures and set out a timetable for restoring overall ScotRail services to pre-pandemic levels.

The Minister for Transport (Jenny Gilruth) moved amendment S6M-03044.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-03044 in the name of Neil Bibby (A People's ScotRail), leave out from "condemns" to end and insert "notes the vital role that ScotRail staff and workers will play in delivering these new services and thanks them for all that they have done to keep rail services running throughout the COVID-19 pandemic; welcomes that staff will transfer with their current terms and conditions, will benefit from public sector pay policy, and that any pay deals already agreed for 2022-23 will be honoured; further welcomes the investment by the Scottish Government to decarbonise and expand Scotland's railways, including £1 billion to electrify 441 kilometres of track and improve infrastructure, benefiting more than 35 million passenger journeys across Scotland each year, a record £4.85 billion allocated, including ongoing electrification and decarbonisation, over £9 billion of investment by the Scottish Government since 2007 helping to reconnect 14 communities to the rail network, with five more to be reconnected in the next three years, and over £555 million to sustain services and jobs throughout the pandemic; laments that the Scottish Labour Party joined with the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party to vote against a draft Scottish budget for 2022-23, which increased expenditure and investment in Scotland's rail services; welcomes that rail fares in Scotland are still on average 20% lower than across the rest of Great Britain, and that, from May, there will be 150 more rail services than have been running since December 2021, with 25 services being reintroduced following the recent consultation on timetable changes; recognises that there has been widespread public and stakeholder interest in the ScotRail consultation on ticket office availability, but notes that the consultation only closed on 2 February 2022 and

responses are therefore still to be reviewed; further notes that the fair fares review will explore what more can be done to ensure that fares across all modes of public transport are equitable and sustainable; agrees that the culture of ScotRail Trains Ltd will be founded on fair work; recognises the key role that a publicly owned and controlled rail service will play in the future to help transform Scotland's economy, to cut emissions from transport, deliver on the climate change targets and create a fairer, greener Scotland, and calls for the full devolution of rail from the UK Parliament, including Network Rail, in order to operate a wholly publicly owned, fully integrated rail network in Scotland."

Graham Simpson moved amendment S6M-03044.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-03044 in the name of Neil Bibby (A People's ScotRail), leave out from "welcomes" to end and insert "hopes that the return of ScotRail to the public sector will be a success; calls on the Scottish Government to set out a business and investment plan before the summer; believes that this should remove the threat of service cuts, and set out a route to lower fares and a simpler ticketing system, as well as an apprenticeship scheme; further calls on the Scottish Government to restore its damaged relationship with the rail unions, and calls for ScotRail to bring an end to the emergency timetable and return to normal services."

After debate, the amendment S6M-03044.3 was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 68, Against 52, Abstentions 0).

The amendment S6M-03044.1 was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 53, Against 67, Abstentions 0).

The motion, as amended, was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 67, Against 53, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament welcomes the return of ScotRail to the public sector; considers the new public sector operator to be critical in securing modal shift and affordable, accessible and reliable rail services for Scotland's passengers; notes the vital role that ScotRail staff and workers will play in delivering these new services and thanks them for all that they have done to keep rail services running throughout the COVID-19 pandemic; welcomes that staff will transfer with their current terms and conditions, will benefit from public sector pay policy, and that any pay deals already agreed for 2022-23 will be honoured; further welcomes the investment by the Scottish Government to decarbonise and expand Scotland's railways, including £1 billion to electrify 441 kilometres of track and improve infrastructure, benefiting more than 35 million passenger journeys across Scotland each year, a record £4.85 billion allocated, including ongoing electrification and decarbonisation, over £9 billion of investment by the Scottish Government since 2007 helping to reconnect 14 communities to the rail network, with five more to be reconnected in the next three years, and over £555 million to sustain services and jobs throughout the pandemic; laments that the Scottish Labour Party joined with the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party to vote against a draft Scottish budget for 2022-23, which increased expenditure and investment in

Scotland's rail services; welcomes that rail fares in Scotland are still on average 20% lower than across the rest of Great Britain, and that, from May, there will be 150 more rail services than have been running since December 2021, with 25 services being reintroduced following the recent consultation on timetable changes; recognises that there has been widespread public and stakeholder interest in the ScotRail consultation on ticket office availability, but notes that the consultation only closed on 2 February 2022 and responses are therefore still to be reviewed; further notes that the fair fares review will explore what more can be done to ensure that fares across all modes of public transport are equitable and sustainable; agrees that the culture of ScotRail Trains Ltd will be founded on fair work; recognises the key role that a publicly owned and controlled rail service will play in the future to help transform Scotland's economy, to cut emissions from transport, deliver on the climate change targets and create a fairer, greener Scotland, and calls for the full devolution of rail from the UK Parliament, including Network Rail, in order to operate a wholly publicly owned, fully integrated rail network in Scotland.

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

The meeting closed at 5.23 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
3 February 2022

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

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 3 February 2022—

COVID-19 Recovery Committee, 3rd Report, 2022 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation Considered by the COVID-19 Recovery Committee on 3 February 2022 (SP Paper 98)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 8th Report, 2022 (Session 6): Supplementary Legislative Consent Memoranda: delegated powers relevant to Scotland in the Health and Care Bill (SP Paper 99)

Subordinate Legislation

Made Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before Parliament on 3 February 2022 and is subject to the made affirmative procedure—

Coronavirus Act 2020 (Alteration of Expiry Date) (Scotland) Regulations 2022 (SSI 2022/40)

laid section 95(2) and (6) of the Coronavirus Act 2020

Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before Parliament on 3 February 2022 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Budget (Scotland) Act 2021 Amendment Regulations 2022 [draft]

laid under section 7(2) of the Budget (Scotland) Act 2021

Negative Instruments

The following instruments were laid before Parliament on 3 February 2022 and are subject to the negative procedure—

Non-Domestic Rate (Scotland) Order 2022 (SSI 2022/36)

laid under section 7B(5) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1975

Non-Domestic Rating (Valuation of Utilities) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2022 (SSI 2022/37)

laid under section 6A(2) of the Valuation and Rating (Scotland) Act 1956 and section 27(11) of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994

Red Rocks and Longay Urgent Marine Conservation (No. 2) Order 2021 (Urgent Continuation) Order 2022 (SSI 2022/39)

laid under section 165 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010

Other Documents

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 3 February 2022 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Scotland's Budget Documents: The 2021-22 Spring Budget Revision to the Budget (Scotland) Act for the year ending 31 March 2022 SG/2022/9 laid at the request of a member of the Scottish Government and not under any laying power

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