



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 1, No. 71, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 19 January 2022

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

- 1. Portfolio Questions:** Questions on Health and Social Care, and then Social Justice, Housing and Local Government were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.
- 2. Ministerial Statement:** The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government (Shona Robison) made a statement and answered questions on Strengthened Fire Alarm Standards.
- 3. Protecting Local Government Funding in Scotland:** Miles Briggs moved S6M-02838—That the Parliament notes the calls made by COSLA and all council group leaders for the Scottish Government to deliver a much better financial settlement for the next financial year; further notes that COSLA states that the funding cut to the core revenue budget is £371 million in real terms, and calls on the Scottish Government to commit to fair funding for local councils by delivering a new financial framework, which will ensure that councils automatically receive a set percentage of the Scottish Government budget each year.

The Minister for Public Finance, Planning and Community Wealth (Tom Arthur) moved amendment S6M-02838.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-02838 in the name of Miles Briggs (Protecting Local Government Funding in Scotland), leave out from “calls made” to end and insert “key role that councils play in their communities and their part in delivering a national recovery; recognises that the independent Scottish Fiscal Commission

has stated that overall the 2022-23 Scottish Budget has reduced in real terms by 5.2%; notes that this is in spite of continued COVID-19 and inflationary pressures on public services; welcomes the Scottish Government's Budget for 2022-23, which, despite these challenges, includes record funding of £18 billion for Health and Social Care, doubles the Scottish Child Payment, introduces free bus travel for everyone under the age of 22, and delivers a fair settlement worth over £12.5 billion of funding to local authorities; recognises that the total local government settlement has increased by £588.2 million, or 5.1% in real terms, including specific funding for social care, education and employability support, and welcomes the Scottish Government's commitment to developing a fiscal framework for local government and delivering a citizens' assembly on sources of local government funding."

Mark Griffin moved amendment S6M-02838.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-02838 in the name of Miles Briggs (Protecting Local Government Funding in Scotland), insert at end “; believes that this set percentage of the Scottish Government budget each year should be for essential and non-ringfenced services to afford local councils maximum flexibility in delivering local priorities; notes that the 2022-23 offer comes on top of the damaging effects of a cumulative Scottish Government cut to local authority revenue budgets of £937 million between 2013-14 and 2021-22, and agrees that the heroic effort of local government workers to keep the country going during the COVID-19 pandemic must be recognised in the 2022-23 financial settlement from the Scottish Government, giving local authorities the opportunity to offer a fair pay settlement to their staff.”

After debate, amendment S6M-02838.2 was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 67, Against 54, Abstentions 0). As a result, amendment S6M-02838.1 was pre-empted.

The motion, as amended, was then agreed to ((DT) by division: For 65, Against 56, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament notes the key role that councils play in their communities and their part in delivering a national recovery; recognises that the independent Scottish Fiscal Commission has stated that overall the 2022-23 Scottish Budget has reduced in real terms by 5.2%; notes that this is in spite of continued COVID-19 and inflationary pressures on public services; welcomes the Scottish Government's Budget for 2022-23, which, despite these challenges, includes record funding of £18 billion for Health and Social Care, doubles the Scottish Child Payment, introduces free bus travel for everyone under the age of 22, and delivers a fair settlement worth over £12.5 billion of funding to local authorities; recognises that the total local government settlement has increased by £588.2 million, or 5.1% in real terms, including specific funding for social care, education and employability support, and welcomes the Scottish Government's commitment to developing a fiscal framework for local government and delivering a citizens' assembly on sources of local government funding.

**4. Education Failures and Guaranteeing the 2022 Exam Diet:** Meghan Gallacher moved S6M-02839—That the Parliament regrets that education has never been the First Minister Nicola Sturgeon’s number one priority, and expresses frustration at the widening attainment gap and the failure to guarantee that the 2022 school examination diet will go ahead in full.

The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills (Shirley-Anne Somerville) moved amendment S6M-02839.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-02839 in the name of Meghan Gallacher (Education Failures and Guaranteeing the 2022 Exam Diet), leave out from “regrets” to end and insert “commends the education workforce for its continued efforts to deliver high-quality school education throughout the COVID-19 pandemic; acknowledges that the pandemic has caused disruption to learning, not just in Scotland but around the world, as recognised by the World Bank and the UN; welcomes the Scottish Government’s commitment to education recovery through significant investment in teacher employment, digital inclusion, tackling costs associated with the school day, and study support; recognises the Scottish Government’s ongoing commitment to tackling the poverty-related attainment gap, the progress made pre-pandemic in closing the gap, and the further £1 billion investment over the course of the current parliamentary session through the refreshed Scottish Attainment Challenge; notes that it is the Scottish Government’s firm intention that the 2022 national qualification exam diet will take place if it is safe to do so; welcomes the National e-Learning Offer, which has been in place since August 2020, and acknowledges that the Scottish Government and SQA continue to closely monitor disruption caused to schools by COVID-19, with a commitment to provide additional support to learners as required.”

Michael Marra moved amendment S6M-02839.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-02839 in the name of Meghan Gallacher (Education Failures and Guaranteeing the 2022 Exam Diet), leave out from “and the failure” to end and insert “; recognises the disruption to the educational experience of young people caused by COVID-19; believes that it is the duty of the Scottish Government to ensure that there is equity in the qualifications system; notes that in-year learning has again been disrupted in this academic year, and calls, therefore, on the Scottish Government to immediately publish a National Appeals Process, which includes exceptional circumstances caused by disruption and guarantees no detriment to pupils.”

After debate, amendment S6M-02839.1 was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 67, Against 54, Abstentions 0). As a result, amendment S6M-02839.2 was pre-empted.

The motion, as amended, was then agreed to ((DT) by division: For 67, Against 53, Abstentions 1).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament commends the education workforce for its continued efforts to deliver high-quality school education throughout the COVID-19 pandemic; acknowledges that the pandemic has caused disruption to learning, not just in Scotland but around the world, as recognised by the World Bank and the UN; welcomes the Scottish Government's commitment to education recovery through significant investment in teacher employment, digital inclusion, tackling costs associated with the school day, and study support; recognises the Scottish Government's ongoing commitment to tackling the poverty-related attainment gap, the progress made pre-pandemic in closing the gap, and the further £1 billion investment over the course of the current parliamentary session through the refreshed Scottish Attainment Challenge; notes that it is the Scottish Government's firm intention that the 2022 national qualification exam diet will take place if it is safe to do so; welcomes the National e-Learning Offer, which has been in place since August 2020, and acknowledges that the Scottish Government and SQA continue to closely monitor disruption caused to schools by COVID-19, with a commitment to provide additional support to learners as required.

**5. Appointment of Member of the Standards Commission for Scotland:** Claire Baker, on behalf of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body, moved S6M-02862—That the Parliament agrees, under Section 8 of the Ethical Standards in Public Life etc. (Scotland) Act 2000, to appoint Suzanne Vestri as a Member of the Standards Commission for Scotland.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**6. Business Programme:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-02851—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 25 January 2022

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Topical Questions (if selected)

*followed by* First Minister's Statement: COVID-19 Update

*followed by* Stage 3 Proceedings: Transvaginal Mesh Removal (Cost Reimbursement) (Scotland) Bill

*followed by* Committee Announcements

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Wednesday 26 January 2022

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Justice and Veterans; Finance and Economy  
*followed by* Finance and Public Administration Committee Debate: Committees  
Budget Scrutiny

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Approval of SSIs (if required)

5.00 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Thursday 27 January 2022

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 Portfolio Questions: Education and Skills

*followed by* Stage 1 Debate: Budget (Scotland) Bill

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 1 February 2022

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Topical Questions (if selected)

*followed by* First Minister's Statement: COVID-19 Update

*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 2 February 2022

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Covid Recovery and Parliamentary Business; Net Zero,  
Energy and Transport

*followed by* Scottish Government Business

*followed by* Scottish Government Debate: Scottish Rate Resolution

*followed by Business Motions*

*followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions*

*followed by Approval of SSIs (if required)*

5.00 pm Decision Time

*followed by Members' Business*

Thursday 3 February 2022

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

*followed by Members' Business*

2.15 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.15 pm Portfolio Questions: Rural Affairs and Islands

*followed by Scottish Labour Party Business*

*followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions*

5.00 pm Decision Time

(b) that, for the purposes of Portfolio Questions in the week beginning 24 January 2022, in rule 13.7.3, after the word “except” the words “to the extent to which the Presiding Officer considers that the questions are on the same or similar subject matter or” are inserted.

The motion was agreed to.

**7. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-02852—That the Parliament agrees that the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (Licensing of Short-term Lets) Order 2022 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 68, Against 53, Abstentions 0).

**8. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-02853—That the Parliament agrees that the Town and Country Planning (Short-term Let Control Areas) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2022 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 87, Against 33, Abstentions 0).

**9. Designation of Lead Committee:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-02854—That the Parliament agrees that the Criminal Justice Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the legislative consent memorandum in relation to the Public Service Pensions and Judicial Offices Bill (UK Legislation).

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**10. Decision Time:** The Parliament took decisions on items 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 9 as noted above.

**11. The ASDA Foundation and its Community Work:** The Parliament debated S6M-02621 in the name of Alexander Stewart—That the Parliament notes the new fund that was launched by the Asda Foundation in 2021 to help reunite communities, acknowledge the benefits of togetherness and support groups, as COVID-19 restrictions began to ease across the UK; understands that, through the Bringing Communities Back Together fund, grants of between £250 and £1,000 were available to support groups to get activities back on track, or hold get-together celebrations; is delighted that five Asda stores across the Mid Scotland and Fife region have supported 19 projects with funding totalling £15,220; understands that, in 2020, the Asda Foundation invested more than £500,000 in community projects and good causes in Scotland alone, which, it believes, have made a tangible difference to the wider community; further understands that Asda is committed to looking for good causes to support through its foundation, as well as its award-winning community programme, and applauds the Asda Foundation, and everyone involved, for what it sees as their collective, sterling work for the ultimate good of communities across Scotland and the UK as a whole.

The meeting closed at 7.06 pm.

**David McGill**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
19 January 2022

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

**Committee Reports**

The following report was published on 18 January 2022—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 2nd Report, 2022 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 18 January 2022 (SP Paper 80)

The following report was published on 19 January 2022—

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee, 1st Report, 2022 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation Considered by the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee (SP Paper 81)

**Subordinate Legislation**

**Negative Instruments**

The following instruments were laid before Parliament on 19 January 2022 and are subject to the negative procedure—

Financial Assistance for Environmental Purposes (Scotland) Order 2022 (SSI 2022/8)

laid under section 160A (1) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990

Scottish Road Works Register (Prescribes Fees) Regulations 2022 (SSI 2022/9)

laid under section 163 of the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991

**Other Documents**

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 19 January 2022 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**Scottish Public Services Ombudsman: Compendium Report of Discontinued Investigations: Compendium of Case Reports for January 2022 SPSO/2022/01**  
laid under Sections 15(1) and 15(1A) of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002



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