



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 1, No. 13, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 16 June 2021

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Social Justice, Housing and Local Government and Constitution, External Affairs and Culture were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.

2. Ministerial Statement: The Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery (John Swinney) made a statement and answered questions on Redress for Survivors (Historical Child Abuse in Care) Scotland Act 2021 Update.

3. Mitigating, Tackling and Responding to the Skills Impact of Brexit: The Minister for Just Transition, Employment and Fair Work (Richard Lochhead) moved S6M-00382—That the Parliament agrees that a skilled and productive workforce is vital to addressing labour market inequalities, creating fairer workplaces and delivering an inclusive, green recovery; recognises that employers in sectors disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic are now reporting skills shortages as a result of the ending of free movement, and that colleges and universities share concern over the impact of Brexit on staff and student mobility; agrees that delivering a skilled and sustainable workforce will require action and collaboration from both the Scottish and UK governments, along with employers and key partners, and welcomes the Scottish Government's continued commitment to upskilling and retraining, including through the extension of the National Transition Training Fund to 2021-22 and commitment to invest an additional £500 million over the current parliamentary session to support new jobs and reskill people for the future.

Oliver Mundell moved amendment S6M-00382.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-00382 in the name of Richard Lochhead (Mitigating, Tackling and Responding to the Skills Impact of Brexit), leave out from “that employers in sectors” to end and insert “the changing labour market and the potential skills shortages created and highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic and calls on the Scottish Government to take further action to mitigate these shortages, including creating more apprenticeships, reversing the trend of decreasing college student numbers that has occurred under the current SNP administration, setting out plans for a return to in-person small group learning in higher and further education and introducing Individual Learning Accounts as called for by CBI Scotland; notes the need to work constructively with the UK Government to maximise the opportunities for Scotland outside of the EU, and calls on the Scottish Government to avoid needless disruption to the labour market by abandoning its plans to hold a divisive independence referendum while Scotland is recovering from a global pandemic.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 29, Against 73, Abstentions 21).

Paul Sweeney moved amendment S6M-00382.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-00382 in the name of Richard Lochhead (Mitigating, Tackling and Responding to the Skills Impact of Brexit), insert at end “; notes the disappointingly low uptake of the National Transition Training Fund to date and believes that upskilling and reskilling Scotland will require more ambitious interventions; acknowledges that the Scottish Government must do more to enhance the standard of living in Scotland, work with the UK Government to support flexible visa schemes and build on previous initiatives, such as ‘Fresh Talent’, in order to effectively address the skills shortages within key sectors of the economy and make Scotland an attractive location to live, work, study and do business; recognises the need for an effective industrial strategy, and calls on the Scottish Government to develop such a strategy to prevent the loss of skilled jobs, promote upskilling in the workplace and promote the extension of trade union recognition to prevent exploitation of migrant labour and secure future fiscal sustainability.”

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 93, Against 29, Abstentions 0).

The motion was then agreed to ((DT) by division: For 91, Against 29, Abstentions 1).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—That the Parliament agrees that a skilled and productive workforce is vital to addressing labour market inequalities, creating fairer workplaces and delivering an inclusive, green recovery; recognises that employers in sectors disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic are now reporting skills shortages as a result of the ending of free movement, and that colleges and universities share concern over the impact of Brexit on staff and student mobility; agrees that delivering a skilled and sustainable workforce will require action and collaboration from both the Scottish and UK governments, along with employers and key partners; welcomes the Scottish Government’s continued commitment to

upskilling and retraining, including through the extension of the National Transition Training Fund to 2021-22 and commitment to invest an additional £500 million over the current parliamentary session to support new jobs and reskill people for the future; notes the disappointingly low uptake of the National Transition Training Fund to date and believes that upskilling and reskilling Scotland will require more ambitious interventions; acknowledges that the Scottish Government must do more to enhance the standard of living in Scotland, work with the UK Government to support flexible visa schemes and build on previous initiatives, such as 'Fresh Talent', in order to effectively address the skills shortages within key sectors of the economy and make Scotland an attractive location to live, work, study and do business; recognises the need for an effective industrial strategy, and calls on the Scottish Government to develop such a strategy to prevent the loss of skilled jobs, promote upskilling in the workplace and promote the extension of trade union recognition to prevent exploitation of migrant labour and secure future fiscal sustainability.

4. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-00396—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 22 June 2021

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 Ministerial Statement: OECD Report on Curriculum for Excellence

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Coronavirus (Extension and Expiry) (Scotland) Bill

followed by Financial Resolution: Coronavirus (Extension and Expiry) (Scotland) Bill

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

6.30 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 23 June 2021

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Finance and Economy; Education and Skills
followed by Ministerial Statement: Tackling Child Poverty Progress Report
followed by Stage 2 Debate: Coronavirus Extension and Expiry (Scotland) Bill
followed by Business Motions
followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions
followed by Approval of SSIs (if required)

6.30 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 24 June 2021

12.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.30 pm Stage 3 Proceedings: Coronavirus (Extension and Expiry) (Scotland) Bill

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

6.30 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 31 August 2021

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 1 September 2021

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions

followed by Scottish Government Business

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 2 September 2021

12.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

followed by Members' Business

2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.30 pm Portfolio Questions: Health and Social Care

followed by Scottish Government Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

(b) that, for the purposes of Portfolio Questions in the week beginning 30 August, 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.

5. Revision to Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-00411—That the

Parliament agrees to the following revisions to the programme of business for Thursday 17 June 2021—

after

followed by Ministerial Statement: Provisional Outturn 2020-21

insert

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Appointment of Law Officers

delete

5.00 pm Decision Time

and insert

5.30 pm Decision Time

The motion was agreed to.

6. Health Protection (Coronavirus) (International Travel) (Scotland) Amendment (No. 11) Regulations 2021 (SSI 2021/212): The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam) moved S6M-00398—That the Parliament agrees that the Health Protection (Coronavirus) (International Travel) (Scotland) Amendment (No. 11) Regulations 2021 (SSI 2021/212) be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

7. Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions and Requirements) (Local Levels) (Scotland) Amendment (No. 24) Regulations 2021 (SSI 2021/211): The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam) moved S6M-00399—That the Parliament agrees that the Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions and Requirements) (Local Levels) (Scotland) Amendment (No. 24) Regulations 2021 (SSI 2021/211) be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

8. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 3, 6 and 7 as noted above.

9. Historical Forced Adoption: The Parliament debated S6M-00138 in the name of Monica Lennon—That the Parliament condemns the historical practice of forced adoption, where up to 250,000 mothers were unfairly coerced, resulting in their new-born babies being taken away from unmarried mothers; notes that, in the UK, it is estimated 60,000 of the women resided in Scotland; acknowledges that the babies were taken away against their mother's will and placed for adoption; understands that lawyers examining the birth mothers' cases have focused on the period between 1945 and 1975, before a change in the UK adoption law, when around 500,000 babies were adopted, mostly from mothers who were under 24, denying them the right to care for

their children; notes the view that the UK and Scottish governments should follow the lead of the Australian Government in 2013, by taking responsibility for the policies and practices that forced the separation of mothers from their babies, and further notes calls for the Scottish Government to initiate an inquiry regarding the practice in Scotland, acknowledge to the public through a formal apology that there had been wrongdoings and ensure that support is available to women and families in Central Scotland and across the country who have had to live with the consequences of the actions of government in the past.

The meeting closed at 6.41 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
16 June 2021

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

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 16 June 2021 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

The Electoral Commission Performance standards for Electoral Registration Officers June 2021 SG/2021/140 laid under Sections 9AA(2)(b) of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000

Care Inspectorate: Weekly Care Home deaths report – periods up to 13 June 2021 SG/2021/143 laid under Section 79A(3) of the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

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