



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 1, No. 91, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 15 March 2022

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

- 1. Time for Reflection:** Rev'd John Murdoch, Minister, St John's Kirk of Perth and St Leonard's in the Fields, Perth, led Time for Reflection.
- 2. Topical Questions:** Questions were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and a Minister.
- 3. Ministerial Statement:** The First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon) made a statement and answered questions on COVID-19 Update.
- 4. Ministerial Statement:** The Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands (Mairi Gougeon) made a statement and answered questions on Developing a Catching Policy to Deliver Sustainable Fisheries Management in Scotland.
- 5. Ending Conversion Practices:** Joe FitzPatrick, on behalf of the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee, moved S6M-03597—That the Parliament notes the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee's 1st Report, 2022, (Session 6), *Report on Petition PE1817: End Conversion Therapy* (SP Paper 88).

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

- 6. COVID-19 – Scotland's Strategic Framework Update:** The Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery (John Swinney) moved S6M-03617—That the Parliament welcomes the publication of the Strategic Framework Update on 22

February 2022; offers its condolences to everyone in Scotland who has suffered loss and its gratitude to all those who have worked so hard and sacrificed so much during the pandemic; notes that Scotland is now able to look forward to the rest of 2022 with increased optimism, made possible by the remarkable progress on vaccination and in new treatments; supports the new strategic intent to manage COVID-19 effectively, primarily through adaptations and health measures that strengthen resilience and recovery, as the country rebuilds for a better future; acknowledges that the threat from COVID-19 has not gone away and that the approach is to manage COVID-19 going forwards on the basis of four broad response categories that reflect the assessed threat; notes that the Scottish Government will aim to convert remaining COVID-19 regulations into guidance to promote good public health behaviours, while retaining the ability to regulate in future should the public health situation require it; agrees that there is a need for collaborative management of COVID-19 to be shared by central and local government, wider public services, businesses, the third sector, communities and individuals, and notes that the pandemic has also exacerbated inequalities, poverty and disadvantage and that the Strategic Framework outlines a wide range of concrete actions that are designed to improve outcomes across society, consistent with the COVID-19 Recovery Strategy.

Murdo Fraser moved amendment S6M-03617.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-03617 in the name of John Swinney (COVID-19 – Scotland’s Strategic Framework Update), leave out from “welcomes” to end and insert “notes the publication of the Strategic Framework Update on 22 February 2022; offers its condolences to everyone in Scotland who has suffered loss and its gratitude to all those who have worked so hard and sacrificed so much during the pandemic; notes that Scotland is now able to look forward to the rest of 2022 with increased optimism, made possible by the remarkable progress on vaccination and in new treatments; acknowledges that the threat from COVID-19 has not gone away but believes that the public in Scotland can be trusted to act responsibly and follow guidance promoting good public health behaviours and that, accordingly, ongoing regulations are not required; notes the overwhelming public opposition to the Scottish Government’s proposals to permanently hold emergency powers to make health regulations; agrees that there is a need for collaborative management of COVID-19 to be shared by central and local government, wider public services, businesses, the third sector, communities and individuals; notes that the pandemic has also exacerbated inequalities, poverty and disadvantage, and calls on the Scottish Government to bring forward credible proposals to tackle the NHS backlog, and invest in a national tutoring programme and school catch-up premium to support children and young people who have suffered from two years of disrupted learning.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 47, Against 65, Abstentions 0).

Jackie Baillie moved amendment S6M-03617.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-03617 in the name of John Swinney (COVID-19 – Scotland’s Strategic Framework Update), leave out from

“welcomes” to end and insert “notes the publication of the Strategic Framework Update on 22 February 2022; offers its condolences to everyone in Scotland who has suffered loss and its gratitude to all those who have worked so hard and sacrificed so much during the pandemic; notes that Scotland is now able to look forward to the rest of 2022 with increased optimism, made possible by the remarkable progress on vaccination and in new treatments; supports the new strategic intent to manage COVID-19 effectively, primarily through adaptations and health measures that strengthen resilience and recovery, as the country rebuilds for a better future; acknowledges that the threat from COVID-19 has not gone away and considers that there is a need to maintain Test and Protect infrastructure, including free access to testing, to help monitor and contain future outbreaks; agrees that there is a need for collaborative management of COVID-19 to be shared by central and local government, wider public services, businesses, the third sector, communities and individuals; believes that future closures of businesses and services should only ever be a last resort, and that businesses should have clarity in advance about the financial support that they will receive in such a situation; further believes that all future restrictions should be subject to a vote in the Parliament; notes that the pandemic has also exacerbated inequalities, poverty and disadvantage, and agrees that addressing these areas must be the priority of delivering a successful recovery.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 21, Against 94, Abstentions 0).

The motion was then agreed to ((DT) by division: For 68, Against 46, Abstentions 0).

7. Revision to Business Programme: George Adam on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-03638—That the Parliament agrees to the following revisions to the programme of business for—

(a) Wednesday 16 March 2022—

after

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Justice and Veterans; Finance and Economy

insert

followed by Ministerial Statement: Update on Refugees from Ukraine

(b) Thursday 17 March 2022—

after

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Delivering on Active Travel Commitments

insert

followed by Legislative Consent Motion: Cultural Objects (Protection from Seizure) Bill (UK Legislation)

The motion was agreed to.

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

9. Marie Curie's Great Daffodil Appeal 2022: The Parliament debated S6M-02957 in the name of Gillian Martin—That the Parliament welcomes Marie Curie's Great Daffodil Appeal 2022, which runs throughout March; praises Marie Curie nursing and hospice staff who have been on the frontline throughout the COVID-19 pandemic for providing palliative and end of life care support to hundreds of dying people, their families, and carers, including in the Aberdeenshire East constituency; understands that Marie Curie cared for over 9,000 people in Scotland during 2020-21, which is reportedly the highest number of patients cared for in a single year since the charity was established 70 years ago; commends what it sees as the dedication, hard work and contribution of Marie Curie volunteers across Scotland; considers that the pandemic has highlighted how crucial access to palliative and end of life care is for terminally ill people to ensure a positive end of life experience that reflects what is important to the individual; understands that Marie Curie needs to raise £250,000 per week to support its frontline services; commends the vital care and support that Marie Curie provides across local authorities and hospices; praises the Marie Curie Information and Support services, which are available for everyone affected by terminal illness, including for bereavement support, and the volunteer Helper services, which have adapted during the pandemic to continue providing what it sees as vital emotional support, companionship, and information to terminally ill people, their carers, and families; believes that wearing the daffodil pin unites millions of people who consider that dying people should get the care and support that they need, and notes the calls encouraging as many people as possible to support the Marie Curie Great Daffodil Appeal in March 2022.

The meeting closed at 7.32 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
15 March 2022

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 11 March 2022—

Education Children and Young People Committee, 3rd Report, 2022, Session 6: Subordinate legislation - The Provision of Early Learning and Childcare (Specified Children) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2022 (SP Paper 130)

The following report was published on 14 March 2022—

Finance and Public Administration Committee, 2nd Report, 2022, Session 6: Subordinate Legislation - The Scottish Landfill Tax (Standard Rate and Lower Rate) Order 2022 (SP Paper 132)

The following reports were published on 15 March 2022—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 17th Report, 2022 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 15 March 2022 (SP Paper 135)

Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee, 3rd Report, 2022 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee on 15 March 2022 (SP Paper 137)

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 11 March 2022 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (Scotland) Order 2022 [draft]
laid under section 96(4) of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 15 March 2022 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Climate Change Committee: Is Scotland climate ready? 2022 Report to Scottish Parliament, March 2022 SG/2022/40 laid under Section 55(4) of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

Judicial Appointments Board for Scotland Annual Report 2020-2021 SG/2022/10 laid under section 18 of the Judiciary and Courts (Scotland) Act 2008

Ensuring Long Term Sustainability From Scotland's Marine Resources - Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM) Consultation SG/2022/36 laid at the request of a member of the Scottish Government and not under any laying power

Scotland's Future Catching Policy Consultation SG/2022/37 laid at the request of a member of the Scottish Government and not under any laying power

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