



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 2, No. 1, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 17 May 2022

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Time for Reflection: Rev Sarah Brown, Saint Machar's Cathedral, led Time for Reflection.

2. Topical Questions: Questions were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and Ministers.

3. Supporting Scotland's Islands on their Journey to Become Carbon Neutral: The Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands (Mairi Gougeon) moved S6M-04428—That the Parliament welcomes the Scottish Government's announcement of the six islands that will be supported towards becoming fully carbon neutral by 2040; notes that the six islands are Hoy, Islay, Great Cumbrae, Raasay, Barra and Yell; recognises that these six islands will embrace the opportunity for island communities to lead the way in realising Scotland's climate change ambitions; notes that the project will benefit all Scottish islands, and not only those supported directly as part of the project, through knowledge exchange and good practices; welcomes this initiative, which puts Scotland's islands at the forefront of climate change policy while celebrating their unique culture and heritage, and acknowledges that the six carbon neutral islands will become international trailblazers and champions of carbon neutrality across the world.

Rachael Hamilton moved amendment S6M-04428.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-04428 in the name of Mairi Gougeon (Supporting Scotland's Islands on their Journey to Become Carbon Neutral),

insert at end "; calls on the Scottish Government to provide support and funding so that the islands and islanders can progress towards being carbon neutral, and further calls on the Scottish Government to publish plans for these islands to achieve these goals."

After debate, amendment S6M-04428.1 was agreed to (DT).

Rhoda Grant moved amendment S6M-04428.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-04428.3 in the name of Mairi Gougeon (Supporting Scotland's Islands on their Journey to Become Carbon Neutral), insert at end "; acknowledges that the outlined move to carbon neutrality for six islands is just five years before the net zero target for the whole of Scotland; is committed to all of Scotland's islands becoming carbon neutral and will ensure that those whose economy is more dependent on hydrocarbons will not be left behind; believes that the transition to net zero must be a jobs led, just transition, which is dependent on good quality, secure jobs in the renewables sector, and recognises the opportunities presented by offshore wind and its supply chain, including future decommissioning, in creating and supporting a skilled renewables workforce and helping to ensure that adequate investment is made in retraining opportunities for oil and gas workers and in developing the infrastructure needed to ensure island communities can benefit from supply chain jobs."

After debate, amendment S6M-04428.3 was agreed to (DT).

Liam McArthur moved amendment S6M-04428.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-04428 in the name of Mairi Gougeon (Supporting Scotland's Islands on their Journey to Become Carbon Neutral), insert at end "; regrets that, although Hoy and Yell will be supported towards becoming fully carbon neutral islands, inter-island ferries in Orkney and Shetland have been excluded from the new Islands Connectivity Plan, and calls on the Scottish Government to rectify this so that any targets around carbon neutral ferries include those serving all of Scotland's islands; recognises that reducing emissions from heat will be particularly challenging and costly in island communities with the highest levels of fuel poverty, and believes that the Scottish Government must therefore prioritise support through a targeted plan to help retrofit homes on Scotland's islands as part of wider efforts to meet Scottish Government targets."

After debate, amendment S6M-04428.2 was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 52, Against 65, Abstentions 0).

The motion, as amended, was agreed to (DT).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament welcomes the Scottish Government's announcement of the six islands that will be supported towards becoming fully carbon neutral by 2040; notes

that the six islands are Hoy, Islay, Great Cumbrae, Raasay, Barra and Yell; recognises that these six islands will embrace the opportunity for island communities to lead the way in realising Scotland's climate change ambitions; notes that the project will benefit all Scottish islands, and not only those supported directly as part of the project, through knowledge exchange and good practices; welcomes this initiative, which puts Scotland's islands at the forefront of climate change policy while celebrating their unique culture and heritage; acknowledges that the six carbon neutral islands will become international trailblazers and champions of carbon neutrality across the world; calls on the Scottish Government to provide support and funding so that the islands and islanders can progress towards being carbon neutral; further calls on the Scottish Government to publish plans for these islands to achieve these goals; acknowledges that the outlined move to carbon neutrality for six islands is just five years before the net zero target for the whole of Scotland; is committed to all of Scotland's islands becoming carbon neutral and will ensure that those whose economy is more dependent on hydrocarbons will not be left behind; believes that the transition to net zero must be a jobs led, just transition, which is dependent on good quality, secure jobs in the renewables sector, and recognises the opportunities presented by offshore wind and its supply chain, including future decommissioning, in creating and supporting a skilled renewables workforce and helping to ensure that adequate investment is made in retraining opportunities for oil and gas workers and in developing the infrastructure needed to ensure island communities can benefit from supply chain jobs.

4. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on item 3 as noted above.

5. Protecting Marine Life During Unexploded Ordnance Removal: The Parliament debated S6M-04277 in the name of Beatrice Wishart—That the Parliament notes reports that there are 100,000 tonnes of unexploded ordnance in waters around the UK, which are relics of the first and second world wars; recognises that the presence of bombs, mines and shells in the waters around Shetland and the whole of Scotland pose potential obstructions to offshore projects; understands that the current common method of disposing of these devices involves powerful explosives that the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, a statutory adviser of the UK and Scottish governments, acknowledges can be very loud; notes the concerns of campaigners that this can seriously disrupt and threaten marine mammals, which use sound to find food, socialise and navigate, and can suffer hearing loss, other physical damage, and death as a result of loud sounds; further notes the reports that connect clearances with mass strandings; acknowledges the campaign for the adoption of available low-impact methods of disposal, such as low-order deflagration, which it understands have the support of Whale and Dolphin Conservation and other organisations; notes the calls for new guidance from Marine Scotland and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, and what it considers as the potential benefits of this for low-impact disposal methods and enhanced protection of marine life, and highlights the event that was hosted in the Scottish Parliament informing MSPs about the issue in April 2022.

The meeting closed at 5.43 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
17 May 2022

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 13 May 2022—

COVID-19 Recovery Committee, 8th Report, 2022 (Session 6): COVID-19
Recovery Committee: Annual Report 2021-22 (SP Paper 174)

The following report was published on 16 May 2022—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 29th Report, 2022 (Session
6): Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill: Stage 1 (SP Paper 176)

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was withdrawn and re-laid before the Parliament on 13 May 2022 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Legal Aid and Advice and Assistance (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) (No. 2)
Regulations 2022 [draft]
laid under section 37(2) of the Legal Aid (Scotland) Act 1986

Negative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 16 May 2022 and is
subject to the negative procedure—

Food and Feed Safety (Fukushima Restrictions) (Scotland) Revocation Regulations
2022 (SSI 2022/166)
laid under Article 57a(5) of Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002 of the European
Parliament

Other Documents

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 13 May 2022 and is not
subject to parliamentary procedure—

General Pharmaceutical Council Strategic plan 2020-25: year three SG/2022/92
laid under Paragraph 8 of Schedule 1 of the Pharmacy Order 2010

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