



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 2, No. 35, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 26 October 2022

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Constitution, External Affairs and Culture, and then on Justice and Veterans, were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and a Minister.

2. Supporting the NHS in Winter: Jackie Baillie moved S6M-06437—That the Parliament is deeply concerned that record numbers of patients are waiting over eight and 12 hours in A&E on a weekly basis; acknowledges that hospital capacity continues to be constrained by thousands of bed days lost due to delayed discharge; recognises the tireless work of the NHS staff who care for patients in increasingly difficult and safety critical situations; notes that the Scottish Ministers have not yet resolved the nurses' and NHS staff pay claim risking industrial action during the winter period; considers the Scottish Government's NHS Recovery Plan and Winter Plan to be inadequate with the new interim targets to reduce waiting times being missed and no additional funding for the impending winter crisis, and calls for the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care to either set out a clear plan to end waiting times of more than eight hours ahead of winter, or to resign.

The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care (Humza Yousaf) moved amendment S6M-06437.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-06437 in the name of Jackie Baillie (Supporting the NHS in Winter), leave out from “that record” to end and insert “about the impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic on the health of the people of Scotland and on the operation of the National Health Service;

acknowledges that, as a result, Scotland's NHS and care services face deep pressures, with 884 patients with COVID-19 currently in hospital; recognises that, as a result of increases in inflation, the health budget is worth around £650 million less than in December 2021; notes that the £600 million Health and Social Care winter plan supports recruitment of 1,000 additional staff, and includes over £120 million to help health and social care partnerships expand care at home capacity; welcomes that, in the face of these challenges, the NHS has been steadily increasing activity levels; recognises the exceptional work of NHS staff through the pandemic and beyond, and that the NHS Agenda for Change pay offer would see the lowest paid staff in NHS Scotland getting an increase of over 11% and qualified nursing staff seeing an increase of up to 8.45%; further recognises that if the offer is accepted, an experienced porter will be paid up to £2,502 more than their counterparts in England and Wales; recognises that, similarly, an experienced paramedic and staff nurse will be paid up to £2,186 more than their counterparts in England and Wales, and understands that the £50 million investment in improving unscheduled care has addressing long waits as a key area of focus."

Sandesh Gulhane moved amendment S6M-06437.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-06437 in the name of Jackie Baillie (Supporting the NHS in Winter), after "weekly basis;" insert "is equally concerned that cancer waiting times are at their worst level on record; expresses its disappointment at the Scottish Government's failure to meet its target to end inpatient two-year treatment waits in most specialties; reminds the Scottish Government that it has never met its target to treat 90% of children with mental health issues within 18 weeks of referral; notes with concern the long ambulance waits being experienced across Scotland;".

After debate, amendment S6M-06437.1 was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 62, Against 51, Abstentions 0). As a result, amendment S6M-06437.2 was pre-empted.

The motion, as amended, was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 62, Against 51, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament is deeply concerned about the impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic on the health of the people of Scotland and on the operation of the National Health Service; acknowledges that, as a result, Scotland's NHS and care services face deep pressures, with 884 patients with COVID-19 currently in hospital; recognises that, as a result of increases in inflation, the health budget is worth around £650 million less than in December 2021; notes that the £600 million Health and Social Care winter plan supports recruitment of 1,000 additional staff, and includes over £120 million to help health and social care partnerships expand care at home capacity; welcomes that, in the face of these challenges, the NHS has been steadily increasing activity levels; recognises the exceptional work of NHS staff through the pandemic and beyond, and that the NHS Agenda for Change pay offer would see the lowest paid staff in NHS Scotland getting an increase of over 11% and qualified nursing staff seeing an increase of up to 8.45%; further recognises that if

the offer is accepted, an experienced porter will be paid up to £2,502 more than their counterparts in England and Wales; recognises that, similarly, an experienced paramedic and staff nurse will be paid up to £2,186 more than their counterparts in England and Wales, and understands that the £50 million investment in improving unscheduled care has addressing long waits as a key area of focus.

3. Cost of Living: Daniel Johnson moved S6M-06438—That the Parliament notes that inflation again reached 10.1% in September 2022, driven by rising food prices and energy bills; condemns the mini-budget set out by the UK Government, and recognises that the cost of living pressures that households are facing will be exacerbated by the economic damage it caused; believes that the priority for every government must be preventing further instability and addressing the cost of living; considers that there is more action that could be taken by the Scottish Government, including the cancellation of school meals debt, increased funding for money advice services and a top up to the welfare fund; remains deeply concerned about households in Scotland that are struggling to make ends meet over the winter, and calls, therefore, in the interests of transparency, for the Deputy First Minister to set out the outcome of the Emergency Budget Review to Parliament as a matter of urgency.

The Minister for Public Finance, Planning and Community Wealth (Tom Arthur) moved amendment S6M-06438.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-06438 in the name of Daniel Johnson (Cost of Living), leave out from “; believes that” to end and insert “alongside the disastrous economic impact of leaving the European Union, which is being felt by Scotland’s economy, businesses and households; recognises that, as a result of increasing inflation, the Scottish budget is worth £1.7 billion less than when it was set in December 2021; welcomes the financial support that the Scottish Government has provided from within its fixed and limited budget to help people facing the impact of the cost of living crisis, including direct cash support, with almost £3 billion allocated to support households, £1 billion of which is support only available in Scotland; recognises that this includes the unique £20 per week per child Scottish Child Payment, which will increase to £25 on 14 November 2022, when it is also extended to under 16s, and £44 million for the Carer’s Allowance Supplement; acknowledges further support with the planned doubling of the December Bridging Payment to £260, supporting up to 145,000 school-aged children; notes the additional costs that the Scottish Government has funded in relation to public sector pay; expresses concern at the prospect of a fresh round of UK Government austerity; believes that the priority for every government must be preventing further instability and addressing the cost of living; calls on the UK Government to use its fiscal statement on 31 October to rule out a return to austerity, further help people with soaring energy bills, reinstate the pension triple lock, confirm an inflationary rise in social security benefits in 2022-23 and provide the Scottish Government with an inflationary uplift to the 2022-23 budget to enable the Scottish Government to take further steps to support people with the cost of living; believes that a strengthened windfall tax should be an important source of funding for this support, rather than borrowing and public spending cuts, and understands that the Scottish Government will

finalise and publish the outcome of the Emergency Budget Review once consideration has been given to the implications of the UK Government's fiscal statement and updated Office of Budget Responsibility's forecasts."

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 62, Against 50, Abstentions 0).

Jamie Halcro Johnston moved amendment S6M-06438.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-06438 in the name of Daniel Johnson (Cost of Living), leave out from "condemns" to end and insert "recognises that an increasing rate of inflation is a challenge faced by many countries around the world; welcomes the cost of living support provided by the UK Government to both businesses and households, including freezing the unit price of energy and giving payments to the most vulnerable in society worth up to £1,650, and calls on the Scottish Government to end its campaign to hold another independence referendum during this cost of living crisis and for both the UK and Scottish governments to work together to tackle the current crisis."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 28, Against 84, Abstentions 0).

The motion, as amended, was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 60, Against 52, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament notes that inflation again reached 10.1% in September 2022, driven by rising food prices and energy bills; condemns the mini-budget set out by the UK Government, and recognises that the cost of living pressures that households are facing will be exacerbated by the economic damage it caused alongside the disastrous economic impact of leaving the European Union, which is being felt by Scotland's economy, businesses and households; recognises that, as a result of increasing inflation, the Scottish budget is worth £1.7 billion less than when it was set in December 2021; welcomes the financial support that the Scottish Government has provided from within its fixed and limited budget to help people facing the impact of the cost of living crisis, including direct cash support, with almost £3 billion allocated to support households, £1 billion of which is support only available in Scotland; recognises that this includes the unique £20 per week per child Scottish Child Payment, which will increase to £25 on 14 November 2022, when it is also extended to under 16s, and £44 million for the Carer's Allowance Supplement; acknowledges further support with the planned doubling of the December Bridging Payment to £260, supporting up to 145,000 schoolaged children; notes the additional costs that the Scottish Government has funded in relation to public sector pay; expresses concern at the prospect of a fresh round of UK Government austerity; believes that the priority for every government must be preventing further instability and addressing the cost of living; calls on the UK Government to use its fiscal statement on 31 October to rule out a return to austerity, further help people with soaring energy bills, reinstate the pension triple lock, confirm an inflationary rise in social security benefits in 2022-23 and provide the Scottish Government with an inflationary

uplift to the 2022-23 budget to enable the Scottish Government to take further steps to support people with the cost of living; believes that a strengthened windfall tax should be an important source of funding for this support, rather than borrowing and public spending cuts, and understands that the Scottish Government will finalise and publish the outcome of the Emergency Budget Review once consideration has been given to the implications of the UK Government's fiscal statement and updated Office of Budget Responsibility's forecasts.

4. Ministerial Statement: The Minister for Mental Wellbeing and Social Care (Kevin Stewart) made a statement and answered questions on Suicide Prevention Strategy and Action Plan.

5. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-06456—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—
Tuesday 1 November 2022

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Ministerial Statement: Scotland's Humanitarian Response to the Ukraine Crisis

followed by Social Justice and Social Security Committee Debate: Robbing Peter to Pay Paul - Low Income and the Debt Trap

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 2 November 2022

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Covid Recovery and Parliamentary Business; Finance and Economy

followed by Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Approval of SSIs (if required)

5.10 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 3 November 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: Net Zero, Energy and Transport

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Progress on the Automation and Take-up of Scottish Social Security Benefits

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Tuesday 8 November 2022

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 9 November 2022

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Rural Affairs and Islands; Health and Social Care

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 10 November 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: Social Justice, Housing and Local Government

followed by Health, Social Care and Sport Committee Debate: Inquiry into Alternative Pathways to Primary Care

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 31 October 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.

6. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-06457—That the Parliament agrees that the Companies Act 2006 (Scottish public sector companies to be audited by the Auditor General for Scotland) (No. 2) Order 2022 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

7. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 2, 3 and 6 as noted above.

8. Sewage and Scotland's Waters: The Parliament debated S6M-06148 in the name of Alex Cole-Hamilton—That the Parliament notes the view that the natural environment deserves the highest possible protection; further notes the reports in *The Ferret* that untreated human waste was discharged into Scotland's waters more than 10,000 times in 2021, including at beauty spots such as the River Almond, which passes through the Edinburgh Western constituency; considers that the true figure is likely to be much higher due to monitoring only being required, it understands, at 3% of sewage release points; understands that Scottish Environmental Protection Agency figures show that 49 of the 87 designated bathing waters around Scotland recorded levels of the faecal bacteria, *E. coli*, and intestinal enterococci during summer 2022 that represented a danger to the health of swimmers, surfers, paddlers and wildlife; further understands that high concentrations of such bacteria can cause stomach, ear, nose and throat infections, and notes the calls from campaigners for targets to be set to reduce discharges, for enhanced monitoring to be backed up by transparent reporting, and for the acceleration of measures to upgrade sewage systems and tackle overflows.

The meeting closed at 6.49 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
26 October 2022

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 26 October 2022—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 51st Report, 2022 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 25 October 2022 (SP Paper 261)

Subordinate Legislation

Negative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 26 October 2022 and is subject to the negative procedure—

Scottish Child Payment (Saving Provisions) Regulations 2022 (SSI 2022/302)
laid under section 96(4) of the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018

Laid Only Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 26 October 2022 and is not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Non-Domestic Rates (Scotland) Act 2020 (Commencement No. 2, Transitional and Saving Provisions) Amendment (No. 2) Regulations 2022 (SSI 2022/301 (C. 17))
laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

Other Documents

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 25 October 2022 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Scottish Biometrics Commissioner Annual Report and Accounts 2021/22 (SG/2022/207) laid under Section 32 of the Scottish Biometrics Commissioner Act 2020

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 26 October 2022 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Scottish Children's Reporter Administration - Annual Report 2021/22 (SG/2022/191) laid under Paragraph 21 of schedule 3 of the Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011

Scottish Children's Reporter Administration - Annual Accounts 2021/22 (SG/2022/192) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Scottish Public Services Ombudsman: Annual Report 2021-22 (SPSO/2022/AR)
laid under Sections 17(1) and (3) of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act
2002

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