



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 2, No. 28, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Tuesday 27 September 2022

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

- 1. Time for Reflection:** Chris Jewell, Chief Executive Officer, Ascension Trust (Scotland), led Time for Reflection.
- 2. Topical Questions:** Questions were answered by Cabinet Secretaries.
- 3. Scotland's Population – Meeting the Needs of our Communities, Economy and Public Services:** The Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External Affairs and Culture (Angus Robertson) moved S6M-06063—That the Parliament notes that the Parliament has previously endorsed a motion calling for the development of a differentiated, more flexible migration policy tailored to meet Scotland's specific needs; celebrates the social, economic and cultural contribution made to Scotland by those who have chosen to live here; notes that the UK Government's own immigration advisers concluded in 2019 that the UK migration system is not very effective in dealing with the particular problems that remote communities experience and recommended the establishment of a pilot scheme to support migration to rural areas, and that this recommendation was accepted by the then Home Secretary in a statement to the House of Commons in July 2019; further notes the distinct demographic challenges that Scotland faces, and that all of Scotland's population growth is projected to come from migration; notes that the independent Expert Advisory Group on Migration and Population concluded in its 2019 report that the demographic challenges for rural areas would be exacerbated by the ending of freedom of movement; further notes that the Fresh Talent scheme introduced in 2005 was a differentiated migration approach for Scotland, and calls on the UK Government to accept the Rural Visa Pilot proposal, which has been jointly

developed by the Scottish Government, rural and island local authorities and rural employers, and to engage constructively to support the delivery of Rural Visa Pilots that meet the needs of rural communities.

Donald Cameron moved amendment S6M-06063.3—

As an amendment to motion S6M-06063 in the name of Angus Robertson (Scotland's Population - Meeting the Needs of our Communities, Economy and Public Services), leave out from first "notes" to end and insert "celebrates the social, economic and cultural contribution made to Scotland by those who have chosen to live here; acknowledges the Scottish Government's 2021 report, A Scotland for the future: The opportunities and challenges of Scotland's changing population, which states that Scotland faces "very significant demographic challenges" and that the reasons for this are multi-faceted; further acknowledges recent figures from the National Records of Scotland that show that Scotland has the lowest life expectancy in the UK; recognises that rural areas in particular face a significant depopulation crisis; supports an immigration system that assists parts of Scotland that need migration most, in particular, remote and island communities, and believes that a new approach is required to reverse rural depopulation, as well as meet the wider population challenges facing Scotland as a whole."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 31, Against 77, Abstentions 0).

Daniel Johnson moved amendment S6M-06063.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-06063 in the name of Angus Robertson (Scotland's Population - Meeting the Needs of our Communities, Economy and Public Services), insert at end "; notes that there are high levels of economic inequality across the regions of Scotland; acknowledges that investment in housing, jobs, services and infrastructure is necessary to retain existing populations in communities across Scotland, particularly in rural areas, which have faced depopulation in recent years; believes that years of inadequate funding and investment will mean that local authorities will face challenges in providing the necessary infrastructure and services to enable communities to grow; understands that a shrinking working-age population will negatively impact Scotland's budget while an ageing population will place greater demand on health and care services, and calls on the Scottish Government to show the vision and ambition to meet these challenges and use all policy levers available to grow the economy and spread wealth and opportunity across every part of Scotland."

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 41, Against 67, Abstentions 0).

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 79, Against 29, Abstentions 0).

4. Urgent Question: An urgent question, to ask the Scottish Government what its response is to the claim in a BBC report today that the process for awarding the

contract for ferries 801 and 802 may have been rigged, was answered by the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy (John Swinney).

5. Motion Without Notice: George Adam, on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved without notice that, under Rule 11.2.4, Decision Time shall begin at 5.07 pm.

The motion was agreed to.

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

7. Adopt a Road: The Parliament debated S6M-05590 in the name of Kenneth Gibson—That the Parliament notes calls on local authorities to consider introducing the Adopt a Road initiative, which, it understands, works successfully across North America; understands that such a scheme offers individuals, organisations, companies and volunteer groups the opportunity to contribute to their community and local area by taking responsibility for a length of road, usually in the vicinity of the sponsoring group or person, from one junction to the next and that, while no money changes hands, the sponsor agrees to keep the sponsored road free of litter and reasonably clean, contacting the local authority to uplift any refuse gathered, having given at least 24 hours' notice; further understands that such a scheme recognises sponsors through the provision of signs on the sponsored road, which are designed, provided and erected by the local authority; understands that the programme originated in the United States when an engineer for the Department of Transportation sought the help of local groups to sponsor the cleaning of sections of the highway, as litter pick-up by the local authority was too expensive to undertake as often as was necessary; is aware of reports that, as of 2021, more than 120,000 California residents have participated in the initiative to remove litter and graffiti, plant trees and wildflowers, and clear vegetation along over 15,000 shoulder miles of roadside, and notes the view that such a scheme could be successfully piloted in North Ayrshire and other local authorities across Scotland.

The meeting closed at 5.52 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
27 September 2022

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 23 September 2022—

Criminal Justice Committee, 10th Report, 2022 (Session 6): The Advice and Assistance (Summary Criminal Proceedings) (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2022 [draft] (SP Paper 226)

The following report was published on 26 September 2022—

Finance and Public Administration Committee, 7th Report, 2022 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation: The Scottish Landfill Tax (Prescribed Landfill Site Activities) Amendment Order 2022 (SP Paper 227)

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 27 September 2022 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Pavement Parking Prohibition (Exemption Orders Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2022 [draft]
laid under section 128(2) of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019

Laid Only Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 23 September 2022 and is not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles (Scotland) Act 2022 (Commencement No. 1) Regulations 2022 (SSI 2022/280 (C.16))
laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

Other Documents

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

Registers of Scotland Annual Report and Accounts 2021-22 (SG/2022/169)
laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Student Awards Agency Scotland Annual Report and Accounts 2021-2022 (SG/2022/152) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 27 September 2022 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

HM Fire Service Inspectorate: Arrangements for Firefighting in High Rise Buildings (SG/2022/161) laid under Section 43C(5) of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005

Scottish Funding Council: Annual Report and Accounts 2021-22 (SG/2022/173) Government laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

Scottish Government: Fiscal Framework Outturn Report - September 2022 (SG/2022/155) laid at the request of a member of the Scottish Government and not under any laying power

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