



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 52, Session 5

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 8 October 2020

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

The meeting opened at 12.20 pm.

- 1. First Minister's Questions:** Questions were answered by the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon).
- 2. Portfolio Questions:** Questions on Justice and the Law Officers were answered by a Cabinet Secretary.
- 3. Ministerial Statement:** The Minister for Mental Health (Clare Haughey) made a statement and answered questions on Scotland's Response to the Mental Health Challenge of Covid-19.
- 4. COVID-19:** The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport (Jeane Freeman) moved S5M-22985—That the Parliament recognises the considerable efforts of people across Scotland to suppress COVID-19; notes that the prevalence of the virus has increased in recent weeks and that the numbers of people hospitalised, in intensive care and tragically dying from the virus has also increased; recognises that this is not confined to younger age groups and agrees that further actions need to be taken in order to reduce the level of transmission across Scotland; notes the evidence paper published on 7 October 2020 and the national and regional targeted actions set out by the First Minister; recognises that these actions will be accompanied by additional measures to boost compliance, provide support for those self-isolating and financial support for those areas of the economy impacted by the measures; welcomes the ongoing four nations discussions and shared commitment to suppress COVID-19 to the lowest possible level across the UK and to keep it there, and notes the commitment to explore additional parliamentary scrutiny and the commitment to bring forward an

updated strategic approach to COVID-19 transmission to the Parliament within the next two weeks.

Donald Cameron moved amendment S5M-22985.2—

As an amendment to motion S5M-22985 in the name of Jeane Freeman (COVID-19), insert at end “; urges the Scottish Government to do more to support the hospitality sector, and calls on it to outline the specific details of what financial support is available to protect the jobs and businesses affected by the restrictions that have been announced.”

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

Richard Leonard moved amendment S5M-22985.4—

As an amendment to motion S5M-22985 in the name of Jeane Freeman (COVID-19), leave out from “, and notes the commitment” to end and insert “; calls for additional parliamentary scrutiny and the commitment to bring forward an updated strategic approach to COVID-19 transmission to the Parliament within the next two weeks; recognises that the public have overwhelmingly been compliant and tolerant of restrictions and thanks them for their efforts; calls for full financial mitigation for all impacted sectors, including the hospitality sector, to support businesses and workers; expresses regret that weekly testing for frontline workers is still not happening routinely, and calls for an expansion in testing and for an increase in contact tracing capacity.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 53, Against 64, Abstentions 0).

Alison Johnstone moved amendment S5M-22985.3—

As an amendment to motion S5M-22985 in the name of Jeane Freeman (COVID-19), insert at end “; recognises that New Zealand has recently achieved elimination of community transmission of COVID-19 for the second time, and that routine testing has been a key aspect of that country’s response to the pandemic; further recognises the significant demand for testing and the need to continue to build further capacity within the NHS, but considers that the Scottish Government must work with NHS Scotland to introduce regular weekly testing for specific groups in the population to be determined in line with clinical advice, and believes that hospital workers, social care staff, school and university staff and students should be considered as a priority.”

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

Willie Rennie moved amendment S5M-22985.1—

As an amendment to motion S5M-22985 in the name of Jeane Freeman (COVID-19), insert at end “, and calls for this updated strategic approach to include an updated routemap and transparency around the thresholds that underpin the implementation and lifting of tougher measures, nationally or

locally, to help people understand and contribute effectively to these efforts, and for this strategy to be the subject of a meaningful vote of Parliament.”

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

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

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—That the Parliament recognises the considerable efforts of people across Scotland to suppress COVID-19; notes that the prevalence of the virus has increased in recent weeks and that the numbers of people hospitalised, in intensive care and tragically dying from the virus has also increased; recognises that this is not confined to younger age groups and agrees that further actions need to be taken in order to reduce the level of transmission across Scotland; notes the evidence paper published on 7 October 2020 and the national and regional targeted actions set out by the First Minister; recognises that these actions will be accompanied by additional measures to boost compliance, provide support for those self-isolating and financial support for those areas of the economy impacted by the measures; welcomes the ongoing four nations discussions and shared commitment to suppress COVID-19 to the lowest possible level across the UK and to keep it there; notes the commitment to explore additional parliamentary scrutiny and the commitment to bring forward an updated strategic approach to COVID-19 transmission to the Parliament within the next two weeks; urges the Scottish Government to do more to support the hospitality sector; calls on it to outline the specific details of what financial support is available to protect the jobs and businesses affected by the restrictions that have been announced; recognises that New Zealand has recently achieved elimination of community transmission of COVID-19 for the second time, and that routine testing has been a key aspect of that country’s response to the pandemic; further recognises the significant demand for testing and the need to continue to build further capacity within the NHS, but considers that the Scottish Government must work with NHS Scotland to introduce regular weekly testing for specific groups in the population to be determined in line with clinical advice; believes that hospital workers, social care staff, school and university staff and students should be considered as a priority, and calls for this updated strategic approach to include an updated routemap and transparency around the thresholds that underpin the implementation and lifting of tougher measures, nationally or locally, to help people understand and contribute effectively to these efforts, and for this strategy to be the subject of a meaningful vote of Parliament.

5. Trade Bill - UK Legislation: The Minister for Trade, Investment and Innovation (Ivan McKee) moved S5M-22970—That the Parliament agrees that the relevant provisions of the Trade Bill, introduced in the House of Commons on 19 March 2020, which relate to the implementation of the Agreement on Government Procurement, the implementation of international obligations arising from UK trade agreements, which stem from existing EU trade agreements and the sharing of trade related information by public bodies, so far as these matters fall within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament or alter the executive functions of the Scottish Ministers, should be considered by the UK Parliament.

After debate, the motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 108, Against 7, Abstentions 0).

6. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S5M-22993—That the Parliament agrees that the Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions and Requirements) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2020 (SSI 2020/300) be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

7. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S5M-22994—That the Parliament agrees that the Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions and Requirements) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 (SSI 2020/279) be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

8. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 4, 5, 6 and 7 as noted above.

The meeting closed at 5.58 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
8 October 2020

Appendix

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

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 8 October 2020—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 60th Report, 2020 (Session 5): Welfare of Dogs (Scotland) Bill: Stage 1 (SP Paper 831)

Finance and Constitution Committee, 11th Report, 2020 (Session 5): Subordinate legislation - Budget (Scotland) Act 2020 Amendment (No. 2) Regulations 2020 (SP Paper 832)

Other Documents

The following document was laid before the Parliament on 8 October 2020 and is not subject to parliamentary procedure—

The Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator Annual Report and Accounts for the financial year ended 31st March 2020 (SG/2020/218) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

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