



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 61, Session 5

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 11 November 2020

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

- 1. Portfolio Questions:** Questions on Finance and then on Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.
- 2. Ministerial Statement:** The Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science (Richard Lochhead) made a statement and answered questions on Universities and Colleges: Supporting Students to Return Home Safely at the End of Term.
- 3. Routine COVID-19 Testing for all Health and Social Care Workers:** Monica Lennon moved S5M-23296—That the Parliament notes the ongoing threat to life and health posed by COVID-19 and the warnings of extreme winter pressures on the NHS, and calls on the Scottish Government to introduce routine weekly COVID-19 testing for all health and social care workers immediately.

The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport (Jeane Freeman) moved amendment S5M-23296.3—

As an amendment to motion S5M-23296 in the name of Monica Lennon (Routine COVID-19 Testing for all Health and Social Care Workers), insert at end “, with prioritisation of staff groups to be guided by expert clinical advice.”

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 116, Against 5, Abstentions 0).

Donald Cameron moved amendment S5M-23296.1—

As an amendment to motion S5M-23296 in the name of Monica Lennon (Routine COVID-19 Testing for all Health and Social Care Workers), after “on the NHS” insert “; recognises the need for the Test and Protect system to be able to provide rapid turnaround contact tracing and cope with increasing demand during the winter months”.

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

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

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—That the Parliament notes the ongoing threat to life and health posed by COVID-19 and the warnings of extreme winter pressures on the NHS; recognises the need for the Test and Protect system to be able to provide rapid turnaround contact tracing and cope with increasing demand during the winter months, and calls on the Scottish Government to introduce routine weekly COVID-19 testing for all health and social care workers immediately, with prioritisation of staff groups to be guided by expert clinical advice.

4. Additional Support for Scotland’s Tourism and Hospitality Sectors During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Richard Leonard moved S5M-23299—That the Parliament recognises the need to protect the population from the COVID-19 pandemic; appreciates the damage that tighter restrictions are having on Scotland’s tourism and hospitality sector; calls on the Scottish Government to provide additional support to these sectors by reviewing the eligibility for COVID business grants and hardship grants and increasing available funding so that no hospitality or tourism business faces closure or job losses as a result of the pandemic, and considers that there is a need to work with trade unions to ensure that ongoing government support is being used to protect and improve workers’ terms and conditions.

The Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism (Fergus Ewing) moved amendment S5M-23299.2—

As an amendment to motion S5M-23299 in the name of Richard Leonard (Additional Support for Scotland’s Tourism and Hospitality Sectors During the COVID-19 Pandemic), leave out from “calls” to end and insert “acknowledges the significant contribution that tourism and hospitality makes, not only to the economy but to the health and wellbeing of workers, and to the cultural vibrancy of Scotland; notes the funding packages and job retention schemes offered by the Scottish and UK governments so far, but recognises that much more needs to be done to protect jobs and businesses into the future, including an extension to the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme beyond March 2021, noting that Scottish Government analysis shows an extension to June could save up to 61,000 jobs; welcomes the independent recommendations of the Tourism Recovery Task Force, and calls on the Scottish and UK governments to consider in full the recommendations, including ‘to progress alternative options for robust Testing Regimes’ for industry, and to provide ‘proportionate, fair financial compensation arrangements if further lockdowns are required’; notes the valuable work and representation of trades unions, including Unite the Union’s

Hospitality and Tourism Rescue Plan, and asks the Scottish and UK governments to meet urgently with them to discuss proposals for the protection of workers' pay and conditions during this difficult time, and, recognising the pressures facing the industry on a UK-wide basis, calls on all governments in the UK to work closely together with the sector, health experts and unions to ensure that jobs, workers conditions and businesses can be protected and strengthened as we work through and emerge from the coronavirus pandemic.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 60, Against 63, Abstentions 0).

Oliver Mundell moved amendment S5M-23299.1—

As an amendment to motion S5M-23299 in the name of Richard Leonard (Additional Support for Scotland's Tourism and Hospitality Sectors During the COVID-19 Pandemic), insert at end “; recognises that the supply chain for hospitality and tourism is also negatively affected and needs support, and calls on the Scottish Government to establish a coronavirus business restrictions advisory council to support Scottish jobs as well as protect public health.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 57, Against 66, Abstentions 0).

The motion was then agreed to ((DT) by division: For 67, Against 53, Abstentions 0).

5. Urgent Question: An urgent question on when the Scottish Government was informed that errors had been made in the publicly reported contact tracing performance of Test and Protect was answered by the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport (Jeane Freeman).

6. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S5M-23313—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 17 November 2020

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions

followed by Ministerial Statement: COVID-19

followed by Ministerial Statement: Update on Scotland's Social Security Benefits

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Annual Veterans Update

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 18 November 2020

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity; Justice and Law officers

followed by Scottish Green 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 19 November 2020

12.20 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

12.20 pm First Minister's Questions

2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.30 pm Portfolio Questions: Constitution, Europe and External Affairs

followed by Public Petitions Committee Debate: Improving Youth Football in Scotland

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

4.25 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 24 November 2020

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions

followed by Ministerial Statement: COVID-19

followed by Health and Sport Committee Debate: Medicines Inquiry

followed by Stage 3 Proceedings: Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Bill

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

6.45 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 25 November 2020

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Economy, Fair Work and Culture; Education and Skills

followed by Scottish Government 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 26 November 2020

12.20 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

12.20 pm First Minister's Questions

2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.30 pm Portfolio Questions: Health and Sport

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Tied Pubs (Scotland) Bill

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.05 pm Decision Time

(b) that, for the purposes of Portfolio Questions in the week beginning 16 November 2020, 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.

7. Stage 2 Timetable: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S5M-23314—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the United Kingdom Withdrawal from the European Union (Continuity) (Scotland) Bill at stage 2 be completed by 4 December 2020.

The motion was agreed to.

8. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S5M-23321—That the Parliament agrees that the Census (Scotland) Amendment Order 2020 [draft] be approved.

After debate, the motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 91, Against 27, Abstentions 0).

9. Committee Meeting Times: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S5M-23315—That the Parliament agrees that, under Rule 12.3.3B of Standing Orders, the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee can meet, if necessary, at the same time as a

meeting of the Parliament from 2pm to 4.30pm on Wednesday 18 November for the purpose of considering and agreeing its report on its inquiry into construction and procurement of ferry vessels in Scotland.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

10. Committee Meeting Times: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S5M-23316—That the Parliament agrees that, under Rule 12.3.3B of Standing Orders, the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee can meet, if necessary, at the same time as a meeting of the Parliament on Tuesday 24 November during debate on the Health and Sport Committee's inquiry into Supply and demand for medicines, and during Members' Business, for the purpose of considering amendments at stage 2 to the United Kingdom Withdrawal from the European Union Continuity (Scotland) Bill.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

11. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S5M-23317—That the Parliament agrees that the Code of Practice for the Welfare of Laying Hens (Revocation) (Scotland) Notice 2020 be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

12. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S5M-23318—That the Parliament agrees that the Human Tissue (Excepted Body Parts) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

13. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S5M-23319—That the Parliament agrees that the Mandatory Use of Closed Circuit Television in Slaughterhouses (Scotland) Regulations 2020 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

14. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S5M-23320—That the Parliament agrees that the Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2020 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

15. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S5M-23322—That the Parliament agrees that the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Public Health Information

for Passengers Travelling to Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2020 (SSI 2020/328) be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

16. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S5M-23323—That the Parliament agrees that the Health Protection (Coronavirus) (International Travel) (Scotland) Amendment (No. 19) Regulations 2020 (SSI 2020/330) be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

17. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 as noted above.

18. Concerns Regarding the Islands Housing Market: The Parliament debated S5M-22640 in the name of Alasdair Allan—That the Parliament notes the concerns expressed regarding rising property prices in many parts of the Highlands and Islands; understands that there has been an increase in interest in rural housing markets since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic; considers that rising house prices in areas with small numbers of available houses to buy is to the detriment of young island families, who are often unable to compete financially and, in some cases, find themselves up against bidders who are willing to buy without even setting foot on the island first; believes that this contributes to the continuing outward migration of young people; considers that the Highlands and Islands, and the Western Isles in particular, have worrying projections in terms of ageing and shrinking populations; recognises the importance of these communities for the maintenance of the Gaelic language; understands what it considers the pressing need for island communities to attract and welcome people from elsewhere; notes the belief that, if current demographic trends are to be reversed, the issues that young island families have, in terms of affordability and availability of housing, must be addressed, and notes the calls for Uist to be used as part of a trial where properties are advertised locally in the first instance.

The meeting closed at 7.22 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
11 November 2020

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

Committee Reports

The following report was published on 10 November 2020—

Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee, 7th Report, 2020 (Session 5):
Stage 1 Report on the Tied Pubs (Scotland) Bill (SP Paper 850)

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 11 November 2020 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Plant Health (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment etc.) Regulations 2020 [draft]
laid under paragraph 2(2) of schedule 2 of the European Communities Act
1972 and paragraph 1(6) of schedule 7 of the European Union (Withdrawal)
Act 2018

Negative Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 11 November 2020 and are subject to the negative procedure—

Fisheries (Technical Conservation Measures) (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment etc.)
Regulations 2020 (SSI 2020/367)
laid under paragraph 2(2) of schedule 2 to the European Communities Act
1972 and paragraph 1(7) of schedule 7 of the European Union (Withdrawal)
Act 2018

Agriculture (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (SSI 2020/368)
laid under paragraphs 1(7) and 8F(6) of schedule 7 of the European Union
(Withdrawal) Act 2018

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 11 November 2020 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

HM Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland: HM Chief Inspector's Annual Report 2019-20 SG/2020/223 laid at the request of a member of the Scottish Government and not under any laying power

Care Inspectorate: Fortnightly report to the Scottish Parliament on Care Inspectorate inspections – Laid before Parliament 11 November 2020 SG/2020/249 laid under Section 53A of the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

Care Inspectorate: Weekly Care Home deaths report – periods up to 8 November 2020 SG/2020/250 laid under Section 79A(3) of the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

Response to the UK Committee on Climate Change Scottish Progress Report 2020 SG/2020/251 laid under Section 9(3) of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

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