



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 79, Session 5

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 23 December 2020

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

The meeting opened at 11.00 am.

- 1. Understanding the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Loneliness and Social Isolation:** The Parliament debated S5M-23326 in the name of Rachael Hamilton—That the Parliament recognises what it considers the damaging impact of social isolation and loneliness throughout the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic; considers that it has had a pronounced effect on older and vulnerable people; understands that studies have shown that, in the long term, it can be as bad for human health as smoking or obesity; acknowledges the recent University of Stirling study, which found that 56% of people said social distancing had made them more lonely; notes the concerns raised in the recent British Red Cross report, *Lonely and left behind: Tackling loneliness at a time of crisis*, that 32% of UK adults agree that they worry something will happen to them and no one will notice; commends the British Red Cross's work, especially in Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire with the Coronavirus Resilience Calendar, and notes the calls on the Scottish Government to consider the report's recommendations in full in order to tackle social isolation and improve mental health and wellbeing.
- 2. Ministerial Statement:** The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport (Jeane Freeman) made a statement and answered questions on Update on Covid Vaccine and Testing Programmes.
- 3. First Minister's Questions:** Questions were answered by the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon).

**4. Portfolio Questions:** Questions on Education and Skills and then on Health and Sport and then on Communities and Local Government were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.

**5. Ministerial Statement:** The Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, Europe and External Affairs (Michael Russell) made a statement and answered questions on Brexit Update.

**6. Scottish General Election (Coronavirus) Bill - Stage 3:** The Bill was considered at Stage 3.

The following amendments were agreed to (without division): 2, 3 and 1.

Amendment 4 was not moved.

The Presiding Officer determined, under Rule 9.8.5BA, that, in his view, no provision of the Scottish General Election (Coronavirus) Bill related to a protected subject-matter.

**7. Scottish General Election (Coronavirus) Bill:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey) moved S5M-23768—That the Parliament agrees that the Scottish General Election (Coronavirus) Bill be passed.

After debate, the motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 117, Against 0, Abstentions 0).

**8. Environmental Standards Scotland:** The Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform (Roseanna Cunningham) moved S5M-23771—That the Parliament endorses the Scottish Government's plans to establish Environmental Standards Scotland on a non-statutory basis, to provide for continuity of environmental governance; notes the evidence given to the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee on 8 December 2020 by the Scottish Government's nominees as members of Environmental Standards Scotland, and approves the Scottish Government's nominations to Environmental Standards Scotland.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**9. Business Programme:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S5M-23787—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 12 January 2021

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Topical Questions

*followed by* Ministerial Statement: COVID-19

*followed by* Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee Debate: Green Recovery

*followed by* Scottish Government Business

*followed by* Committee Announcements

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

6.20 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Wednesday 13 January 2021

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Social Security and Older People; Finance

*followed by* Scottish Labour 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 14 January 2021

12.20 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

12.20 pm First Minister's Questions

2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.30 pm Portfolio Questions: Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform

*followed by* Scottish Government business

*followed by* Stage 1 Debate: Post-mortem Examinations (Defence Time Limit) (Scotland) Bill

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

4.55 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 19 January 2021

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Topical Questions

*followed by* Ministerial Statement: COVID-19

*followed by* Stage 1 Debate: Dogs (Protection of Livestock) (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill

*followed by* Stage 3 Proceedings: Protection of Workers (Retail and Age-restricted Goods and Services) (Scotland) Bill

*followed by* Committee Announcements

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

6.00 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Wednesday 20 January 2021

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Rural Economy and Tourism; Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity

*followed by* Scottish Government Business

*followed by* Stage 1 Debate: Culpable Homicide (Scotland) Bill

*followed by* Business Motions

*followed by* Parliamentary Bureau Motions

*followed by* Approval of SSIs (if required)

6.00 pm Decision Time

*followed by* Members' Business

Thursday 21 January 2021

12.20 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

12.20 pm First Minister's Questions

2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.30 pm Portfolio Questions: Justice and the Law Officers

*followed by* Stage 1 Debate: United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (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 11 January 2021, 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.

**10. Stage 1 Timetabling:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S5M-23788—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill at stage 1 be completed by 22 January 2021.

The motion was agreed to.

**11. Stage 2 Timetabling:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S5M-23789—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Heat Networks (Scotland) Bill at stage 2 be completed by 12 February 2021.

The motion was agreed to.

**12. Stage 2 Timetabling:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S5M-23790—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Tied Pubs (Scotland) Bill at stage 2 be completed by 26 February 2021.

The motion was agreed to.

**13. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S5M-23791—That the Parliament agrees that the Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions and Requirements) (Local Levels) (Scotland) Amendment (No. 6) Regulations 2020 (SSI 2020/415) 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-23792—That the Parliament agrees that the Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions and Requirements) (Local Levels) (Scotland) Amendment (No. 5) Regulations 2020 (SSI 2020/400) 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-23793—That the Parliament agrees that the Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions and Requirements) (Local Levels) (Scotland) Amendment (No. 7) Regulations 2020 (SSI 2020/427) 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-23804—That the Parliament agrees that the Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions and Requirements) (Local Levels) (Scotland) Amendment (No. 8) Regulations 2020 (SSI 2020/452) be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**17. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S5M-23794—That the Parliament agrees that the Health Protection (Coronavirus) (International Travel) (Scotland) Amendment (No. 24) Regulations 2020 (SSI 2020/404) be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**18. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S5M-23795—That the Parliament agrees that the Cross-border Health Care (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**19. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S5M-23796—That the Parliament agrees that the First-tier Tribunal for Scotland Social Security Chamber and Upper Tribunal for Scotland (Allocation of Functions, Procedure and Composition) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2020 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**20. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S5M-23797—That the Parliament agrees that the Carer's Allowance Supplement and Young Carer Grants (Residence Requirements and Procedural Provisions) (EU Exit) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**21. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S5M-23798—That the Parliament agrees that the Rural Development (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**22. Approval of SSI:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S5M-23799—That the Parliament agrees that the Scottish Child Payment Amendment Regulations 2021 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**23. Committee Meeting Times:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S5M-23800—That the Parliament agrees that, under Rule 12.3.3B of Standing Orders, the Committee on the Scottish Government Handling of Harassment Complaints can meet, if necessary, at the same time as a meeting of the Parliament on Tuesday 12

January 2021 from approximately 3.30pm to Decision Time and during Members' Business.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**24. Committee Membership:** The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S5M-23801— That the Parliament agrees that—

Jamie Halcro Johnston be appointed to replace Oliver Mundell as a member of the Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee; and

Oliver Mundell be appointed to replace Jamie Halcro Johnston as a member of the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**25. Decision Time:** The Parliament took decisions on items 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24 as noted above.

The meeting closed at 4.15 pm.

**David McGill**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
23 December 2020

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

**Committee Reports**

The following reports were published on 23 December 2020—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 79th Report, 2020 (Session 5): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 22 December 2020 (SP Paper 900)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 80th Report, 2020 (Session 5): Legislative Consent Memorandum: Covert Human Intelligence Sources (Criminal Conduct) Bill (SP Paper 901)

Covid-19 Committee, 13th Report, 2020 (Session 5): Subordinate legislation considered by the Covid-19 Committee at its meeting on 23 December 2020 (SP Paper 902)

**Subordinate Legislation**

**Made Affirmative Instruments**

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 23 December 2020 and are subject to the made affirmative procedure—

Social Care Staff Support Fund (Coronavirus) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2020 (SSI 2020/469)

laid under paragraph 7(4) of schedule 1 of the Coronavirus (Scotland) (No.2) Act 2020 for approval by resolution of the Scottish Parliament within 28 days beginning with the day on which the Regulations were made, not taking into account periods of dissolution or recess for more than four days

Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions and Requirements) (Local Levels) (Scotland) Amendment (No. 9) Regulations 2020 (SSI 2020/471)

laid under paragraph 6(3) of schedule 19 of the Coronavirus Act 2020 for approval by resolution of the Scottish Parliament within 28 days beginning with the day on which the Regulations were made, not taking into account any period of dissolution or recess for more than 4 days

**Affirmative Instruments**

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 23 December 2020 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (Scotland) Regulations 2021 [draft]

laid under section 51(3) of the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006



## Laid Only Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 23 December 2020 and are not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2020 (Commencement No. 2) Regulations 2020 (SSI 2020/457 (C.37))

laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 (Commencement No. 3 and Saving Provisions) Order 2020 (SSI 2020/464)

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 23 December 2020 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

**Wildlife Crime in Scotland 2019 Annual Report SG/2020/292** laid under Section 26B of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

**Scottish Ambulance Service Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020 SG/2020/308** laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

**Healthcare Improvement Scotland Annual Report and Accounts for year ended 31 March 2020 SG/2020/309** laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

**The State Hospitals Board for Scotland Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020 SG/2020/310** laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

**NHS 24 Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020 SG/2020/311** laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

**NHS Education for Scotland Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020 SG/2020/312** laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

**National Waiting Times Centre Board (also known as the Golden Jubilee Foundation) Annual Report and Accounts for year ended 31 March 2020 SG/2020/313** laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

**Scottish Commission on Social Security Annual Report and Accounts for year ended 31 March 2020 SG/2020/314** laid under section 20(1)(a) of the Social

Security (Scotland) Act 2018 and section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

**Care Inspectorate: Fortnightly report to the Scottish Parliament on Care Inspectorate inspections – Laid before Parliament 23 December 2020**  
**SG/2020/318** laid under Section 53A of the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

**Care Inspectorate: Weekly Care Home deaths report – periods up to 21 December 2020** **SG/2020/33** laid under Section 79A(3) of the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

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