



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 5, No. 51, Session 5

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 7 October 2020

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

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

- 1. Portfolio Questions:** Questions on Rural Economy and Tourism and then Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.
- 2. First Minister's Statement:** The First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon) made a statement and answered questions on COVID-19.
- 3. Ministerial Statement:** The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills (John Swinney) made a statement and answered questions on Assessment of SQA National Qualifications in 2020-21.
- 4. Urgent Question:** An Urgent Question on the outbreak of COVID-19 at the Redmill and Milford House care homes in Lothian was answered by the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport (Jeane Freeman).
- 5. United Kingdom Internal Market Bill – UK Legislation:** The Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, Europe and External Affairs (Michael Russell) moved S5M-22955—That the Parliament agrees not to consent to the United Kingdom Internal Market Bill, as it reduces and constrains the competence of the Scottish Parliament and breaches international law.

Dean Lockhart moved amendment S5M-22955.1—

As an amendment to motion S5M-22955 in the name of Michael Russell (United Kingdom Internal Market Bill - UK Legislation), leave out from “not to consent” to end and insert “to consent to the United Kingdom Internal Market Bill, as it will protect 550,000 jobs and livelihoods across Scotland during an unprecedented economic crisis, deliver significant new powers to the Scottish Parliament and secure additional direct investment from the UK Government in Scotland.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 28, Against 90, Abstentions 0).

The motion was then agreed to ((DT) by division: For 90, Against 28, Abstentions 0).

6. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S5M-22964—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 27 October 2020

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions

followed by Ministerial Statement: Miners' Strike Review

followed by Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee Debate: Energy Inquiry

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 28 October 2020

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Constitution, Europe and External Affairs; Economy, Fair Work and Culture

followed by Ministerial Statement: Winter Preparedness in the NHS

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 29 October 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: Education and Skills

followed by Stage 1 Debate: UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Continuity) (Scotland) Bill

followed by Financial Resolution: UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Continuity) (Scotland) Bill

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 3 November 2020

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions

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 4 November 2020

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Health and Sport; Communities and Local Government

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 5 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: Social Security and Older People

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Defamation and Malicious Publication (Scotland) Bill

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 26 October 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. Committee Meeting Times: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S5M-22965— 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 2.00pm to 4.30pm on both Wednesday 28 October and Wednesday 4 November 2020 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).

8. Designation of Lead Committee: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S5M-22966— That the Parliament agrees that the Education and Skills Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the Disabled Children and Young People (Transitions to Adulthood) (Scotland) Bill.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

9. Designation of Lead Committee: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S5M-22967— That the Parliament agrees that the Health and Sport Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the University of St Andrews (Degrees in Medicine and Dentistry) Bill.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

10. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans (Graeme Dey), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S5M-22968— That the Parliament agrees that the First-tier Tribunal for Scotland Social Security Chamber (Procedure and Composition) Amendment Regulations 2020 [draft] be approved.

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-22969—That the Parliament agrees that the Scottish Child Payment Regulations 2020 [draft] 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-22971—That the Parliament agrees that the Winter Heating Assistance for Children and Young People (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-22972—That the Parliament agrees that the Insolvency Act 1986 (Scotland) Amendment 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-22973—That the Parliament agrees that the Scottish Parliament (Constituencies and Regions) Order 2020 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

15. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 as noted above.

16. Future Options for South West Scotland Transport Infrastructure: The Parliament debated S5M-29652 in the name of Brian Whittle— That the Parliament welcomes the publication of the *South West Scotland Transport Study - Initial Appraisal - Case for Change*, which it considers identifies a clear need for investment in the transport infrastructure of south west Scotland and lays out a range of options to deliver significant improvements to road safety, journey time reliability, the quality and frequency of rail services and public transport integration; understands that the area's transport infrastructure plays a key role in the operation of Scotland's only direct ferry links to Northern Ireland, which are a significant contributor to the local and national economy; acknowledges the potential opportunities to use transport infrastructure investment to benefit the environment, including reducing air and noise pollution in towns and villages through bypassing, installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, improving the resilience of road surfaces, and thereby eliminating increased emissions resulting from long diversionary routes, increasing the viability of public transport as an alternative to the car in more rural areas, and greater availability of active travel routes; notes that the proposals contained in the study will be assessed as part of the ongoing second Strategic Transport Projects Review, and acknowledges calls from communities and businesses in south west Scotland for improvements to roads, such as the A77, A76, A75, A70 and the Bellfield interchange,

and the area's rail lines to be treated as a matter of urgency to ensure the area remains an attractive place to live, and that the local economy remains competitive with other parts of Scotland and the wider UK.

17. Motion Without Notice: Brian Whittle moved without notice that, under Rule 8.14.3, the debate be extended by up to 30 minutes.

The motion was agreed to.

The meeting closed at 7.37 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
7 October 2020

Appendix

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

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 7 October 2020—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 59th Report, 2020 (Session 5): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 9 September 2020 (SP Paper 826)

Finance and Constitution Committee, 9th Report, 2020 (Session 5): Report on the Trade Bill 2020 Legislative Consent Memorandum (SP Paper 827)

Finance and Constitution Committee, 10th Report, 2020 (Session 5): Stage 1 Report on the UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Continuity) (Scotland) Bill (SP Paper 828)

Health and Sport Committee, 13th Report, 2020 (Session 5): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Health and Sport Committee on 6 October 2020 (SP Paper 829)

Covid-19 Committee, 8th Report, 2020 (Session 5): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Covid-19 Committee on 7 October 2020 (SP Paper 830)

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 7 October 2020 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Care Inspectorate: Weekly Care Home deaths report – periods up to 4 October 2020 (SG/2020/212) laid under Section 79A(3) of the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

Highlands and Islands Enterprise Annual Report and Accounts 2019-20 (SG/2020/209) laid under Section 30(1) of the Enterprise and New Towns (Scotland) Act 1990

Reducing emissions in Scotland Progress Report to Parliament, Committee on Climate Change, October 2020 (SG/2020/211) laid at the request of a member of the Scottish Government and not under any laying power

Scottish Forestry Annual Report and Accounts 2019-20 (SG/2020/208) laid under Section 22(5) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000

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