



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 1, No. 43, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 4 November 2021

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

The meeting opened at 11.40am.

- 1. General Questions:** Questions were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and Ministers.
- 2. First Minister's Questions:** Questions were answered by the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon).
- 3. Abortion Clinic Buffer Zones:** The Parliament debated S6M-01767 in the name of Gillian Mackay—That the Parliament notes the campaign by Back Off Scotland for the Scottish Government to introduce 150m buffer zones, or protest-free areas, around clinics that provide abortion services across Scotland; understands that buffer zones around abortion clinics already exist in other countries, such as Australia and Canada, as well as some local authorities in England; believes that safe and legal access to abortion services is a vital human right; further believes that everyone who chooses to have an abortion, including those in the Central Scotland region, should be able to do so without fear of harassment, intimidation or abuse; understands that there have been concerning reports of patients across Scotland, experiencing intimidation and harassment from protesters when accessing sexual and reproductive health services, and notes the view that buffer zones would help to ensure patients can continue to access these services safely and without fear of harassment.
- 4. Motion without Notice:** Gillian Mackay moved without notice that, under Rule 8.14.3, the debate be extended by up to 30 minutes. The motion was agreed to.

5. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Constitution, External Affairs and Culture were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and a Minister.

6. Accessing Scottish Social Security Benefits: The Parliament debated Accessing Scottish Social Security Benefits.

7. Revision to Business Programme: Gillian Mackay on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-01986—That the Parliament agrees to the following revision to the programme of business for Wednesday 10 November 2021—

delete

followed by Ministerial Statement: International Development COVID-19 Support - Partner Countries and Humanitarianism

and insert

followed by Ministerial Statement: Scotland 2045 - Planning for Net Zero

The motion was agreed to.

8. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-01987—That the Parliament agrees that the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (Directions by Local Authorities) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2021 (SSI 2021/329) be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

9. Decision Time: The Parliament took a decision on item 8 as noted above.

The meeting closed at 5.00 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
4 November 2021

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

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 4 November 2021—

Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee, 2nd Report, 2021 (Session 6): The First-tier Tribunal for Scotland (Chambers) Amendment Regulations 2021 [draft] (SP Paper 40)

COVID-19 Recovery Committee, 6th Report, 2021 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation Considered by the COVID-19 Recovery Committee on 4 November 2021 (SP Paper 37)

The following report will be published on 5 November 2021—

Finance and Public Administration Committee, 1st Report, 2021 (Session 6): Pre-Budget Scrutiny 2022-23: Scotland's Public Finances in 2022-23 and the Impact of COVID-19 (SP Paper 39)

Subordinate Legislation

Laid Only Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 4 November 2021 and is not subject to any parliamentary procedure—

Coronavirus Act 2020 (Suspension: Disposal of Bodies) (Scotland) (No. 2) Regulations 2021 (SSI 2021/391)
laid under section 30(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010

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