



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 2, No. 72, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 2 February 2023

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

The meeting opened at 11.40 am.

1. General Questions: Questions were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.

2. First Minister's Questions: Questions were answered by the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon).

3. Scottish Government Commissioned Review of ME Services and Future Action: The Parliament debated S6M-06112 in the name of Sue Webber—That the Parliament notes that the Scottish Government commissioned and welcomed an independently-produced stakeholder review of the NICE guideline on Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS), published on 5 July 2022; further notes that the review states that myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME) or chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) is a complex chronic medical condition affecting an estimated 250,000 people in the UK and that around 20,000 people in Scotland are living with the condition, including in the Lothian region; highlights the four key symptoms characteristic of the condition, which are debilitating fatigue that is worsened by activity, post-exertional malaise (PEM)/symptom exacerbation, unrefreshing sleep and/or sleep disturbance, and cognitive dysfunction, and which affect multiple physiological systems and can fluctuate from mild to very severe in individuals and across the population affected; understands that the review recommends consideration be given to identifying the most effective approaches to improving GP knowledge, confidence and understanding of ME/CFS through an appropriate education programme, and further understands that the review recommends that pilot services should be funded in a selection of NHS boards to

test the development of specialist services with patient involvement and third sector collaboration embedded in the design.

4. Motion without Notice: Sue Webber 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 Education and Skills were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and a Minister.

6. Budget (Scotland) (No. 2) Bill: The Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery (John Swinney) moved S6M-07727—That the Parliament agrees to the general principles of the Budget (Scotland) (No. 2) Bill.

The motion was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 68, Against 56, Abstentions 0)

7. Decision Time: The Parliament took a decision on item 6 as noted above.

8. Male Suicide in Scotland: The Parliament debated S6M-06977 in the name of Jim Fairlie—That the Parliament is concerned by Scotland's suicide rate and the latest statistics showing that 75.03% of people who died by suicide in 2021 were men, continuing a long-term trend whereby men are more likely than women to take their own life across all age groups; notes that in Perth and Kinross, during 2017-2021, the overall rate of suicide was 16.8 per 100,000, which is higher than the national average of 14.1 per 100,000; understands that suicide is a complex behaviour and there is rarely a single factor involved, but that there is strong evidence of associations with financial difficulties and mental health; is concerned, in the midst of an ongoing and deepening cost of living crisis, by the statistic from Samaritans Scotland, highlighted at a recent Cost of Living Summit, that men living in the most deprived areas are up to 10 times more at risk of suicide than those living in the most affluent areas; welcomes the Scottish Government's 10-year strategy to tackle the factors and inequalities that can lead to suicide; commends groups such as Andy's Man Club that offer a safe environment for men to talk about issues and problems that they have faced and are currently facing, and notes the view that, by discussing this issue openly, MSPs can follow what it sees as this good example, which could have an effect in reducing existing stigma and encouraging people across Scotland to have important conversations addressing their mental health.

The meeting closed at 5.45 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
2 February 2023

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

Subordinate Legislation

Affirmative Instruments

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 2 February 2023 and is subject to the affirmative procedure—

Budget (Scotland) Act 2022 Amendment (No. 2) Regulations 2023 [draft]
laid under section 7(2) of the Budget (Scotland) Act 2022

Negative Instruments

The following instruments were laid before the Parliament on 2 February 2023 and are subject to the negative procedure—

Public Health Scotland Amendment Order 2023 (SSI 2023/24)
laid under section 105(2) of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978

Council Tax (Discounts) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2023 (SSI 2023/25)
laid under section 113(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992

Non-Domestic Rating (Valuation of Sites of Reverse Vending Machines) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 (SSI 2023/26)
laid under section 6(8B) of the Valuation and Rating (Scotland) Act 1956 and section 153(6) of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 2 February 2023 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Scotland's Budget Documents: The 2022-23 Spring Budget Revision to the Budget (Scotland) Act for the year ending 31 March 2023 (SG/2023/29) laid at the request of a member of the Scottish Government and not under any laying power

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Annual Report and Accounts 2021/22 (SG/2023/022) laid under Section 42A(1) of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005

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