



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 2, No. 45, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Thursday 17 November 2022

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

The meeting opened at 11.40 am.

- 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. Higher Education Workers' Dispute:** The Parliament debated S6M-06216 in the name of Katy Clark—That the Parliament notes the recent industrial action by university staff following the closure of the UNISON higher education pay ballot on 19 August 2022; further notes that staff at the University of Glasgow, Edinburgh Napier University and Robert Gordon University represented by UNISON, which include cleaners, administrators and library, catering and security workers, most recently took strike action on 3 and 4 October; understands that the Universities and Colleges Employers Association's (UCEA) final offer of 3%, or 7.2% for the lowest paid workers, is sub-inflationary as the current CPI rate is 9.9% and the current RPI rate is 12.3%; considers that UCEA's offer has been imposed on university staff despite being subject to a live dispute with the trade unions, and that such impositions also occurred in 2021 and 2020; understands that the trade unions, University and College Union, Educational Institute of Scotland-University Lecturers' Association and Unite, are at varying stages of consulting or balloting their members for action in the same dispute; believes that industrial relations in the sector have deteriorated to an unacceptable level; notes the view that the staff do incredible work and deserve to be recognised fairly and paid properly; further notes the belief that the Scottish Government must urge universities and UCEA to take meaningful steps

to negotiate a fair resolution to these disputes, and notes the calls on universities and UCEA to return to the negotiating table in the interests of workers and students.

**4. Portfolio Questions:** Questions on Education and Skills were answered by a Cabinet Secretary and Ministers.

**5. The Impact of Brexit on Devolution:** Clare Adamson, on behalf of the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee, moved S6M-06732— That the Parliament notes the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee's 5th Report, 2022 (Session 6): The Impact of Brexit on Devolution (SP Paper 223).

The motion was agreed to (DT).

**6. Decision Time:** The Parliament took a decision on item 5 as noted above.

The meeting closed at 5.01 pm.

**David McGill**  
Clerk of the Parliament  
17 November 2022

## **Appendix**

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

### **Subordinate Legislation**

#### **Negative Instruments**

The following instrument was laid before the Parliament on 17 November 2022 and is subject to the negative procedure—

Building (Scotland) Amendment (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2022 (SSI 2022/340)

laid under section 54(5) of the Building (Scotland) Act 2003

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