



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minute of Parliamentary Bureau
meeting 7 December 2021 at 12.00
pm
Q1.03 / MS Teams

Present:

- Alison Johnstone (chair)
- Annabelle Ewing*
- Liam McArthur
- George Adam
- Neil Bibby*
- Stephen Kerr
- Gillian Mackay

Also attended:

- Gordon MacDonald

Officials present:

- Mark Brough
- Rebecca Carradice
- Gary Cocker*
- Polly Davidson*
- Catherine Fergusson
- Irene Fleming*
- Gail Grant*
- David McGill
- Jason Nairn
- Callum Thomson*
- Tracey White

Previous minutes

1. The minutes of 30 November 2021 were agreed.

Matters arising

2. There were no matters arising.

Business Programme

3. The Bureau agreed a revised programme of business for the week commencing 6 December, and programmes of business for the weeks commencing 13 and 20 December 2021.
4. Stephen Kerr and Neil Bibby requested that additional time be allocated on Thursday 9 December for questions on the ministerial statement on Scottish Budget 2022/23. The Minister noted that ninety minutes being allocated for this item reflected arrangements in previous years and that he was not minded to allocate additional time. Stephen Kerr and Neill Bibby reserved their positions. Neil Bibby also indicated that he intended to bring forward an amendment to the revised business motion.
4. The Bureau agreed that Members Business on Tuesday 14 December would be S6M-02093: Jenni Minto: Importance of Community Defibrillators; on Wednesday 15 December would be S6M-02426: Mark Ruskell: Protecting Rural Bus Services; and on Thursday 16 December would be S6M-01177: Craig Hoy: Edington Hospital.

Approval of SSIs

5. The Bureau noted that motions to approve the following SSIs would be lodged and taken in the Chamber on Wednesday 1 December:
 - Independent Reviewer (Modification of Functions) (Scotland) Regulations 2021 (SSI 2021/draft)
 - Plant Health (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2021 (SSI 2021/draft)
 - Redress for Survivors (Historical Child Abuse in Care) (Payments Materially Affected by Error) (Scotland) Regulations 2021 (SSI 2021/draft)

LCM referral

6. The Bureau agreed to refer a legislative consent memorandum on the Cultural Objects (Protection from Seizure) Bill to the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee.

Gender balance on committees

7. The Bureau considered a letter from the Conveners Group in relation to gender balance on committees.
8. The Bureau noted that while overall committee membership is broadly reflective of the gender balance of the Parliament, there are some committees on which that balance is not reflected. The Bureau noted that there are currently two committees which do not have any female members.
9. The Bureau discussed the factors that are considered in determining committee membership, including subject matter interest and expertise, and that any changes to committee membership should not result in additional committee memberships and increased workload for female Members.
10. Business Managers agreed to consider options for addressing membership of committees which are currently not gender balanced. The Bureau also agreed that active consideration would be given to gender balance in any changes to committee membership during Session 6.
11. The Bureau noted that the Presiding Officer would write to the Conveners Group to outline the Bureau's consideration of the matter and that both letters would be published.

Temporary Standing Order: committee remit

12. The Bureau considered a letter from the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee in relation to a request from the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee that the temporary Standing Order setting out its remit be extended to the end of the Session.
13. The Bureau agreed to write to the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee to seek further information and to consider the request further at a future meeting.

Temporary Standing Order: public gallery access

14. The Bureau agreed to propose to the Parliament that the temporary Standing Order suspending access to the public gallery be extended to 11 February 2022.

Business continuity

15. The Bureau discussed business continuity arrangements.

Catherine Fergusson
Clerk to the Parliamentary Bureau
7 December 2021