

PARLIAMENTARY BUREAU

COMMITTEE REQUEST TO MEET AT THE SAME TIME AS THE PARLIAMENT

Introduction

1. The Parliamentary Bureau is invited to consider a request from the Public Audit Committee to meet at the same time as Members' Business on Thursday 23 February 2023.

Background to Request

2. Since Parliament resumed in January 2023, the Public Audit Committee has been considering a draft report in relation to its scrutiny of the Auditor General for Scotland's report on New vessels for the Clyde and Hebrides, alongside other items of Committee business.
3. The Committee's approach to date has been to consider the report in sections.
4. The Committee will now turn to consideration of a full report at its meeting on 23 February 2023. At this meeting, the Committee will also take evidence from the Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government on the 2021/22 audit of the Scottish Government Consolidated Accounts.
5. Due to the time available on a Thursday morning, it is unlikely the Committee will be able to make the progress required in the time available to consider the report in full.
6. The clerks have explored the option to meet outwith the Committee's usual meeting slot in order to build in additional time for the consideration of the report. Due to committee meeting clashes however, this is not possible. The option to meet earlier than the Committee's usual 8.30am pre-brief start time has also been explored. However, the Committee recognises that this option is not in line with the Parliament's commitment to family-friendly working, including for witnesses, staff and the public.
7. The Committee wishes to maintain momentum in its consideration of the report on 23 February is therefore seeking permission from the Bureau to allow the Committee to meet during Members' Business at lunchtime on that day. The Committee would ensure that the meeting was concluded before other chamber business commenced that afternoon.

Decision

8. Business Managers are therefore invited to consider the Public Audit Committee's request and to recommend to the Parliament that the Committee be given permission to meet at the same time as the Chamber during Members' Business on Thursday 23 February.

**Parliamentary Business Team
February 2023**