



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Restricted – policy

PB/S6/21/MINS/06

Minute of Parliamentary Bureau meeting 22 June 2021 at 12.00 pm Committee Room 2 / (MS Teams)

Present:

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

Also attended:

- Gordon MacDonald
- Gillian Mackay

Officials present:

- David McGill
- Tracey White
- Catherine Fergusson
- Neil Stewart*
- Lewis McNaughton
- Polly Davidson*
- Lynsey Mackay*
- Rebecca Carradice
- Joanne McNaughton
- Jennifer Bell*
- Fergus Cochrane*
- Steven Bell*
- Callum Thomson*
- Irene Fleming*

Previous minutes

1. Patrick Harvie highlighted that Gillian Mackay had been in attendance at the meeting on 15 June 2021 and should be recorded as such. Subject to that amendment, the minutes of 15 June 2021 were agreed.

Matters Arising

2. The Bureau noted that there were some outstanding issues in relation to committee membership and meeting times. The Bureau noted, in relation to Gillian Mackay's membership of the Health, Social Care and Sport and the Bureau, that there had been similar clashes in the past, and that it may be possible to co-ordinate meeting times to avoid a clash occurring in future.
3. The Bureau discussed gender balance on committees. Business Managers agreed to give further consideration to how they could ensure better gender balance on particular committees and to re-visit this issue at a future meeting.

Future business programme

4. The Bureau agreed a revised programme of business for the week commencing 21 June, and a programme of business for the weeks commencing 30 August and 6 September 2021.
5. The Bureau noted that nominations for membership of the Scottish Commission on Public Audit required to be submitted, to allow the Parliament to consider a motion from the SPCB proposing members of the Commission prior to summer recess.
6. The Bureau agreed to lodge a motion to amend Temporary Standing Order Rule 3 to extend the suspension of public access to the Chamber Gallery until 9 October 2021. The Bureau noted that the rule provides flexibility for the Presiding Officer to determine that access should be reinstated at an earlier point should the public health circumstances allow.
7. The Bureau discussed options for scrutiny of Covid-19 related business during summer recess. It was noted that any updates to the Parliament would be likely to coincide with changes to levels. The Bureau also noted that, due to planned works in the Chamber, any sittings may be entirely virtual. The Bureau agreed to wait until the First Minister's statement on 22 June 2021 before taking a final decision on scrutiny of Covid-19 related business during summer recess.
8. The Bureau noted that it was anticipated that two Bills would be introduced before the summer recess, and that Business Managers may be asked to agree by correspondence referral of each Bill to a lead committee.

Consideration of SSIs

9. The Bureau agreed to recommend to the Parliament that—

- the Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions and Requirements) (Local Levels) (Scotland) Amendment (No. 25) Regulations 2021 (SSI 2021/224);
- the Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions and Requirements) (Local Levels) (Scotland) Amendment (No.26) Regulations 2021 (SSI 2021/227); and
- the Health Protection (Coronavirus) (International Travel) (Scotland) Amendment (No. 12) Regulations 2021 (SSI 2021/230);

be considered by the Parliament, with an accompanying suspension of Standing Orders to remove any requirement for scrutiny by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee which has yet to be established for Session 6.

Portfolio and General Questions

10. The Bureau considered a paper setting out options in relation to the scheduling of portfolio and general questions. The Bureau agreed to a cycle of portfolio questions up to October recess. The Bureau further agreed that General Questions should re-start after summer recess and be reviewed after October recess.

British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly

11. The Bureau considered a paper setting out options in relation to the membership of the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly. The Bureau agreed to the Scottish Parliament's membership of the body, and noted that Business Managers would submit their nominations to the Parliament's International Relations Office.

Publication scheme

12. It was agreed that all papers considered at the meeting should be published.

Catherine Fergusson
Clerk to the Parliamentary Bureau
22 June 2021