



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Restricted – policy PB/S6/21/MINS/08

Minute of Parliamentary Bureau meeting 31 August 2021 at 12.00 pm MS Teams

Present:

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

Also attended:

- Gordon MacDonald*

Officials present:

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

Previous minutes

1. The minutes of 24 August 2021 were agreed.

Future business programme

2. The Bureau discussed how parliamentary business would be managed in light of the cooperation agreement between the Scottish Government and the Scottish Green Party.
3. The Bureau agreed that the Scottish Green Party would no longer be allocated opposition business slots, and that officials would draw up a re-allocation of opposition business slots for the next meeting of Bureau.
4. The Bureau also noted that the Scottish Greens:
 - will no longer have a leader's question at First Minister's Questions but will be allocated a backbench question in three weeks out of six, and be called at Question 3 in two of those three weeks
 - will not be taken as opening questioners for ministerial statements, unless the topic of the statement is not covered by an area of co-operation set out in the agreement;
 - will be allocated an open debate speaker in debates rather than opening and closing speaking, unless a Scottish Green Party amendment to the motion for debate has been selected.
5. The Bureau also noted the conventions that Ministers do not lodge parliamentary questions or sit on committees.
6. The Bureau agreed a revised programme of business for the week commencing 30 August, and a programme of business for the weeks commencing 6 September and 13 September 2021.
7. The Bureau agreed that Members Business on Tuesday 7 September would be S6M-00813: Neil Gray: Universal Credit Uplift; on Wednesday 8 September, would be S6M-00838: Brian Whittle: Team GB success; and on Thursday 9 September, would be S6M-00430: Christine Grahame: Mineworkers' Pension Scheme.

Timetabling of a Bill at Stage 1

8. The Bureau agreed to recommend to Parliament that consideration of the Carer's Allowance Supplement (Scotland) Bill at Stage 1 be completed by Friday 24 September

Referral of legislative consent memorandums

9. The Bureau agreed to:
- refer the LCM on the Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill to the Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee.
 - refer the LCM on the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill to the Criminal Justice Committee.
 - recommend to the Parliament that the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee be designated as the lead committee on the LCM on the Environment Bill; and
 - recommend to the Parliament that the Economy and Fair Work Committee be designated as the lead committee on the LCM on the Professional Qualifications Bill.

Membership and substitutions on committees

10. The Bureau agreed to propose to the Parliament changes to Liberal Democrat committee membership and the appointment of two Scottish National Party committee substitutes. Business Managers also agreed to consider the issue of gender balance on the SPPA and DPLR Committees when considering any committee membership changes, and to consider nominating committee substitutes.

Catherine Fergusson
Clerk to the Parliamentary Bureau
31 August 2021