

**PARLIAMENTARY BUREAU****REFERRAL OF A BILL AT STAGE 1: WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AND  
MUIRBURN (SCOTLAND) BILL****Introduction**

1. The Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Bill was introduced in the Parliament on 21 March 2023 by the Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport, Michael Matheson MSP.

**Discussion**

2. The Bill makes provision to ban the acquisition and use of glue traps, to introduce licences for certain wildlife traps and licences for hunting red grouse, and to introduce year-round licences for making muirburn.
3. The Bill falls within the remit of the following committees:

Rural Affairs and Islands Committee	The remit of the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee includes matters relating to rural land use, wildlife crime and animal welfare falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport. The Bill makes provision around wildlife crime and rural land use and accordingly the remit of this Committee is engaged.
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee	The remit of the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee includes matters falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport, with the exception of those covered by the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee and mentioned above. The Bill makes provision in relation to environmental protection in relation to peatlands (which is not included in the matters covered by the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee) in the muirburn provisions, and accordingly the remit of this Committee is engaged.

4. It is considered that the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee has the primary interest in the Bill.
5. We are not aware of any interest of the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee in being formally designated as a secondary committee. Lack of formal designation

does not, of course, prevent the committee from considering the Bill if it subsequently decides to do so.

### **Recommendation**

6. The Bureau is therefore invited to consider recommending to the Parliament by motion that it agrees, under Rule 9.6.1, to designate the Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Bill to the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee as Lead Committee under Rule 9.6.1 for consideration at Stage 1.

**Parliamentary Business Team**  
**March 2023**