



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Finance and Constitution Committee

Edward Mountain MSP
Convener,
Rural Economy and Climate Change
Committee

The Scottish Parliament
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15 March 2017

Dear Edward,

Seatbelts on School Transport (Scotland) Bill: Scrutiny of Financial Memorandum

I am contacting you with regard to the Stage 1 timetable for scrutiny of the Seatbelts on School Transport (Scotland) Bill. I understand that due to an oversight there was no consultation with the Finance and Constitution Committee prior to the scheduling of the final evidence session with the Member in charge on 26 April being agreed.

Unfortunately, the stage 1 timetable which includes Easter recess would not afford my Committee sufficient time to scrutinise the Financial Memorandum (FM). We would require time to issue a call for written evidence (giving a reasonable deadline by which stakeholders should respond) with the option to then take oral evidence and agree and publish a report prior to your committee's evidence session with the Member in charge of the Bill.

The main stumbling block in terms of timings is that in the event that my Committee wished to report on the FM before 26 April, the report would need to be agreed at our meeting on 19 April at the latest. This in turn would necessitate our taking oral evidence on 29 March before recess starts. However, this would leave us insufficient time in which to issue a meaningful call for written evidence to external stakeholders.

I am copying this letter to Gillian Martin MSP for information.

Yours sincerely,

Bruce Crawford MSP
Convener