



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Restricted – policy

PB/S5/20/MINS/20

Minute of Parliamentary Bureau meeting 2 June 2020 at 12 Noon

Present:

- Ken Macintosh (Chair)
- Linda Fabiani
- Christine Grahame*
- Lewis Macdonald
- Graeme Dey
- Liz Smith
- Rhoda Grant
- Patrick Harvie*
- Willie Rennie

Observing:

- George Adam
- Elaine Smith*

Officials present:

- David McGill
- Tracey White
- Irene Fleming
- Catherine Fergusson
- Neil Stewart
- Lewis McNaughton*
- Susan Duffy*
- Joanne McNaughton*
- Fergus Cochrane*
- Steven Bell
- Jason Lloyd

* indicates attendance by videoconference

Previous minutes

1. The minutes of 26 May 2020 were agreed.

Future business programme

Remote voting update

2. The Bureau received an update on progress on testing remote voting arrangements. The Bureau noted progress made and further noted that additional voting consoles had been installed in the public gallery of the Chamber to allow all members to participate in votes in the Chamber whilst observing social distancing.

Future business programme

3. The Bureau discussed a programme of business for the weeks commencing 1 June 2020, 8 June 2020 and 15 June 2020.
4. In relation to the Scottish Government debates on COVID-19 on 2 and 9 June, the Bureau noted that these would be debates without motions but that debates on 16 June would contain motions.
5. The Bureau noted that the Finance and Constitution Committee would consider the Budget (Scotland) Act 2020 Amendment Regulations 2020 on 12 June and that, following that meeting, there may be a desire from the Committee for a short debate on the Regulations on 16 June.
6. The Bureau further noted that Decision Time on 16 June would be 6pm.
7. Following discussion, the Bureau noted the programme of business for the week commencing 1 June 2020 and agreed to recommend to the Parliament a programme of business for the weeks commencing 8 June 2020 and 15 June 2020.

Timetabling of Bills at Stage 2

8. The Bureau agreed to refer the Civil Partnership (Scotland) Bill back to the Equalities and Human Rights Committee for consideration at Stage 2 and to recommend to the Parliament that consideration of the Bill at that Stage be completed by Friday 19 June 2020.

Approval of SSIs

9. The Bureau agreed to—
 - recommend to the Parliament that the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016 (Supplementary Provision) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020 be approved;
 - recommend to the Parliament that the Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) Amendment Order 2020 and the Representation of the People (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2020 be considered by the Parliament.

10. Liz Smith advised that the Conservatives would speak against the motion to approve the Representation of the People (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2020 and vote against both of these motions.

Referral of LCM

11. The Bureau agreed to recommend to the Parliament that the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee be designated as lead committee in consideration of the LCM on the Environment Bill.

Summer recess

12. The Bureau considered options for a summer sitting pattern.

13. After discussion, the Bureau agreed unanimously—

- to recommend to the Parliament that summer recess would last from 27 June to 9 August 2020, with the exception of 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 July and 6 August, on which dates business may be programmed by the Bureau to allow for meetings to take place.
- that, with the exception of 9 and 30 July, any business programmed during summer recess would be virtual.
- that the Parliament would return to its weekly cycle of hybrid meetings on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and virtual meetings on Thursdays from 9 August;
- that for any virtual question times during summer recess some advance notice of themes of questions would be given to better enable the preparation of responses to Members' questions;
- to note that the Presiding Officer could also recall the Parliament at any time during the summer recess period;
- that the recommendation be communicated in a manner that makes clear that the Parliament will continue to meet over summer recess.

Publication scheme

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

Date of next meeting

15. The next meeting of the Bureau would be at 12 noon on Tuesday 9 June 2020.

Irene Fleming
Clerk to the Parliamentary Bureau
2 June 2020