



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Restricted – policy

PB/S5/20/MINS/11

Minute of Parliamentary Bureau meeting 24 March 2020 at 12 noon

Present:

- Ken Macintosh (chair)
- Linda Fabiani
- Christine Grahame (by videoconference)
- Graeme Dey
- Liz Smith
- Rhoda Grant
- John Finnie
- Willie Rennie

Apologies:

- Elaine Smith
- Patrick Harvie

Observing:

- George Adam

Officials present:

- David McGill
- Tracey White
- Irene Fleming
- Catherine Fergusson
- Jason Lloyd
- Susan Duffy (by videoconference)
- Fergus Cochrane

Previous minutes

1. The minutes of 17 March 2020 were agreed.

Future business programme

2. The Bureau agreed to recommend to the Parliament a revised programme of business for the week commencing 23 March 2020 and a programme of business for the week commencing 30 March 2020.

3. The Bureau noted that further consideration would have to be given to the Parliament's business programme for the period following the forthcoming Easter recess. Graeme Dey indicated that, in response to the COVID-19 emergency, the Scottish Government was in the process of assessing priority primary and secondary legislation to inform the Bureau's consideration of the future business programme.

Approval of SSIs

4. The Bureau agreed to recommend to the Parliament that the following SSIs be approved—
 - Right to Buy Land to Further Sustainable Development (Eligible Land, Specified Types of Area and Restrictions on Transfers, Assignations and Dealing) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 [draft]
 - Civil Litigation (Expenses and Group Proceedings) (Scotland) Act 2018 (Success Fee Agreements) Regulations 2020 [draft]
 - National Bus Travel Concession Scheme for Older and Disabled Persons (Scotland) Amendment Order 2020 [draft]
 - Carer's Allowance Up-rating (Scotland) Order 2020 [draft]
 - Funeral Expense Assistance and Young Carer Grants (Up-rating) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 [draft]
 - Representation of the People (Annual Canvass) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 [draft].
5. Liz Smith reserved her position on the Civil Litigation (Expenses and Group Proceedings) (Scotland) Act 2018 (Success Fee Agreements) Regulations 2020 [draft].

Referral of a Bill at Stage 1

6. The Bureau agreed to recommend to the Parliament that the Justice Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the legislative consent memorandum in relation to the Domestic Abuse Bill (UK Legislation).

Appointment of an adviser

7. The Bureau agreed to a request from the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee to appoint an adviser, to assist its scrutiny of climate change and development of related briefing, guidance, training and scrutiny tools to support parliamentary committees.

Business continuity

8. The Bureau discussed arrangements for business continuity in light of COVID-19. The Bureau noted that, due to social distancing measures being implemented in the Chamber, 79 Members can be accommodated in the chamber at any one time to participate in business. For Members wishing only to observe proceedings, seats in the public gallery are available.

9. The Bureau considered options regarding remote participation and proxy/remote voting in Parliamentary business. The Bureau agreed that work should continue on examining what may be technically feasible.

Publication scheme

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

Date of next meeting

11. The next meeting of the Bureau would be at 12 noon on Tuesday 31 March 2020 (to be conducted remotely).

Irene Fleming
Clerk to the Parliamentary Bureau
24 March 2020