



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Restricted – policy

PB/S5/20/MINS/12

Minute of Parliamentary Bureau meeting 31 March 2020 at 12 noon (by videoconference)

Present:

- Ken Macintosh (chair)
- Linda Fabiani
- Christine Grahame
- Graeme Dey
- Liz Smith
- Rhoda Grant
- Patrick Harvie
- Willie Rennie

Apologies:

- Elaine Smith

Observing:

- George Adam

Officials present:

- David McGill
- Tracey White
- Irene Fleming
- Catherine Fergusson
- Lewis McNaughton
- Susan Duffy
- Joanne McNaughton
- Steven Bell
- Fergus Cochrane

Previous minutes

1. The minutes of 24 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 30 March 2020 and a programme of business for the weeks commencing 20 and 27 April 2020.

3. In relation to business on 1 April, the Bureau agreed to recommend to the Parliament that—
 - an election of an additional deputy Presiding Officer be included in the business for the day
 - subject to the Parliament agreeing that the Coronavirus (Scotland) Bill should be treated as an Emergency Bill, the Standing Orders rules requiring the printing of an 'As Amended' version of the Bill and producing revised accompanying documents be suspended
 - the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee can meet, if necessary, at the same time as a meeting of the Parliament during a ministerial statement from the First Minister on Wednesday 1 April 2020 for the purpose of considering Scottish statutory instruments.
4. The Bureau discussed options to support the continuation of Parliamentary business and—
 - noted that an update on remote participation and remote/proxy voting would be provided at a future meeting
 - agreed to continue the suspension of Portfolio and General Questions for a period after the Easter recess, but to retain Topical Questions
 - considered options for the scrutiny of COVID-19 legislation and agreed to consult the Conveners Group on any preferred options, including the possible establishment of a COVID committee
 - noted the procedure for referral of SSIs directly to the Chamber.

Approval of SSIs

5. The Bureau agreed to recommend to the Parliament that the Public Appointments and Public Bodies etc. (Scotland) Act 2003 (Treatment of Non-executive Directors of the Scottish National Investment Bank p.l.c. as Specified Authorities) Order 2020 be approved.
6. The Bureau also agreed to recommend that the following SSIs be considered by the Parliament—
 - the Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2020 (SSI 2020/106)
 - the Single Use Carrier Bags Charge (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2020 [draft]
 - the Scottish Landfill Tax (Standard Rate and Lower Rate) (No. 2) Order 2020 (SSI 2020/105)
 - the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 (Modification No.2) Amendment Order 2020 [draft].

Referral of Members' Bills

7. The Bureau considered the management of Members' Bills in the context of coronavirus. The Bureau agreed to retain the current deadline of the first sitting day in June for the introduction of Members' Bills but that it would not refer new Members' Bills to committees.

Publication scheme

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

Date of next meeting

9. The next meeting of the Bureau would be at 12 noon on Tuesday 16 April 2020 (to be conducted remotely).

Irene Fleming
Clerk to the Parliamentary Bureau
31 March 2020