



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minute of Parliamentary Bureau
meeting 14 December 2021 at 12.00
pm
Q1.03 / MS Teams

Present:

- Alison Johnstone (chair)
- Annabelle Ewing*
- Liam McArthur
- George Adam
- Neil Bibby*
- Tess White
- Stephen Kerr* for items 1 and 2 only
- Gillian Mackay

Also attended:

- Gordon MacDonald

Officials present:

- Mark Brough
- Rebecca Carradice
- Gary Cocker*
- Polly Davidson*
- Catherine Fergusson
- Irene Fleming*
- Gail Grant*
- David McGill
- Jason Nairn
- Callum Thomson*
- Tracey White

Previous minutes

1. The minutes of 7 December 2021 were agreed.

Matters arising

2. The Bureau noted that it held a series of additional meetings on Thursday 9 December, Friday 10 December, Saturday 11 December and Monday 13 December to discuss the arrangements for parliamentary business in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Bureau noted the following outcomes of those meetings:
 - **Thursday 9 December:** The Bureau discussed arrangements for business and attendance in the Chamber in light of the emergence of the omicron variant. The Bureau agreed that it would keep matters under review.
 - **Friday 10 December:** The Bureau met informally at 11.45am as the Minister for Parliamentary Business was unavailable at that time. When it met formally later on Friday afternoon, the Bureau discussed a request from Stephen Kerr and Neil Bibby for Parliament to meet at the earliest opportunity in light of advice issued by Public Health Scotland and the household self-isolation requirements. The Bureau did not agree to a meeting of the Parliament being called for Friday but agreed to meet again the following morning to discuss any changes to the shape of parliamentary business the following week. The Bureau noted the importance of ensuring that, wherever possible, announcements should be made to the Parliament in the first instance and that it would be possible to schedule additional meetings of the Parliament to enable this to happen.
 - **Saturday 11 December:** The Bureau noted that there had been no further developments in relation to guidance or advice relating to Covid-19. The Bureau then discussed parliamentary business and agreed to consider options for extending the questions to the First Minister's statement on Tuesday 14 December by 30 minutes and the order of business.
 - **Monday 13 December:** The Bureau agreed to recommend to the Parliament a revised programme of business for Tuesday 14 December, confirming the extension of questions to the First Minister's Statement on Tuesday 14 December by 30 minutes and the reordering of business. The Bureau also agreed that it would keep business this week under review and that it would meet again, if necessary, to consider changes to parliamentary business to enable scrutiny of any further Covid measures.

Business Programme

3. The Bureau agreed a revised programme of business for the week commencing 13 December, and programmes of business for the weeks commencing 20 December 2021 and 10 January 2022.

4. The Bureau agreed that Members Business on Tuesday 21 December would be S6M-02360: Sarah Boyack: Ending Pharmaceutical Monopolies of Covid-19 Vaccines, and on Wednesday 22 December would be S6M-02397: Emma Harper: Potential for Dumfries City Status. Bureau also noted that the Member's Business slot for Thursday 23 December, allocated to the SNP, will be rescheduled for a date in 2022.

Approval of SSIs

5. The Bureau noted that motions to approve the following SSIs would be lodged and taken in the Chamber on Wednesday 8 December:
 - Health Protection (Coronavirus) (International Travel and Operator Liability) (Scotland) Amendment (No. 7) Regulations 2021 (SSI 2021/425)
 - Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016 (Register of Persons Holding a Controlled Interest in Land) Amendment Regulations 2021 (SSI 2021/draft)
 - Best Start Grants and Scottish Child Payment (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2021 (SSI 2021/draft)

LCM referral

6. The Bureau agreed to refer a legislative consent memorandum on the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill to the Criminal Justice Committee.

Catherine Fergusson
Clerk to the Parliamentary Bureau
14 December 2021