Parliamentary Bureau – Committee request to meet at the same time as the parliament

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee

Introduction

1. The Parliamentary Bureau is invited to consider a request from the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee to meet at the same time as plenary proceedings on Wednesday 18 June, from 2:30pm until shortly before decision time.

Background to Request

2. The Committee is lead committee for scrutiny of the Land Reform (Scotland) Bill, which is currently at Stage 2.

3. The Parliament has agreed that Stage 2 must end by 27 June. Other than an unavoidable work programme discussion at one meeting, the Committee has allocated all of its June meetings to Stage 2 consideration.

4. Over 500 amendments have been lodged to the Bill. There are 37 groupings of debate. On the first day of Stage 2, 5 amendments were disposed of, and 4 groups were debated. Whilst speed of disposal can be expected to pick up (these early groupings were amongst the largest and most significant under consideration), the Committee is now clear that there is no realistic prospect of completing Stage 2 over the remaining three morning meetings The Committee is therefore seeking extra time to consider amendments and complete Stage 2 by the deadline.

5. For the Bureau's awareness, the Committee's other currently identified time for a potential additional meeting is after decision time on 18 June, running until around 8.30pm. However, having sought views from all Committee Members, the Convener seeks permission to hold a meeting during Chamber business as set out below. This is on the grounds that this appears to suit most Members better than the alternative slot, in terms of work-life balance and other commitments falling to Members on that date. Whilst this is not the main reason for preferring the earlier slot, the Convener and Committee also note that the earlier slot is likely to have less impact on staff assisting the Committee meeting.

Timings proposed for meeting

6. In terms of Chamber business, the Committee is seeking approval to meet from 2:30pm until shortly before decision time, concluding in enough time for Members to get to the Chamber and logged in to the voting platform (approximately 4:30pm, assuming a 5pm decision time).

7. This would allow Members of the Committee to take part in portfolio questions on Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands, but the Committee meeting would conflict with portfolio questions for Health and Social Care and Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party Business.

Decision

8. The Bureau is invited to consider the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee's request and to recommend to the Parliament that the Committee be given permission to meet at the same time as the Chamber on Wednesday 18 June from 2:30pm until decision time.

Committee clerking team
June 2025

A Draft Bureau motion is set out below—

S#M-####: Committee Meeting Times—That the Parliament agrees, under Rule 12.3.3B of Standing Orders, that the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee can meet, if necessary, at the same time as a meeting of the Parliament on Wednesday 18 June, between approximately 14:30 and Decision Time.