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 that the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee be allowed meet at the same time as plenary proceedings on Wednesday 18 June, from 17:45 until close of business.

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 be completed by 27 June. Other than unavoidable work programme discussions at a couple of meetings, the Committee has allocated all of its available June meeting time to Stage 2 consideration.

4. There have been 553 amendments lodged to the Bill so far (the final amendment deadline is 18 June, so this may increase, though likely not substantially). There are currently 38 groupings of amendments. Over the first two meetings, 10 groups have been debated and 214 amendments disposed of. The Committee is therefore clear that there is no realistic prospect of completing Stage 2 over its remaining two morning meetings. The Committee has therefore scheduled an additional meeting on the evening of Wednesday 18 June.

5. The Committee had hoped to start this meeting at 17:45. However, Decision Time on Wednesday is expected to start at 17:10 and is likely to include several divisions. It is then followed by a Members' Business debate on the topic "Recognising RAAC in Council and Former Council Housing", which is likely to generate a lot of interest from Members. Therefore, without permission to meet during Members' Business, the Committee may not be able to begin its evening meeting until much later, limiting the progress it would be able to make. The Convener therefore seeks permission to meet from 17:45, which is likely to mean overlapping with Members' Business.

Timings proposed for meeting

6. In terms of Chamber business, the Convener is seeking approval to meet from 17:45 until close of business. (This is on the assumption that Decision Time would be concluded by 17:45. If it is not, the Committee meeting would not begin until after Decision Time to allow all Members to vote.)

7. This would mean that members of the Committee were unable to participate in the Members' Business debate.

Decision

8. The Bureau is invited to consider the request and to recommend to the Parliament that the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee be given permission to meet at the same time as the Chamber on Wednesday 18 June from 17:45 until close of business.

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 17:45 and close of business.