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

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

Introduction

1. The Parliamentary Bureau is invited to consider a request from the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee to meet at the same time as plenary proceedings on Tuesday 25 November, most likely between 6 pm and 8 pm, should this be required. The purpose of this request is to allow a continuation of the Committee's scheduled meeting on the morning of Tuesday 25 November to enable it to complete Stage 2 proceedings on the Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill.

Background to Request

2. The Committee began Stage 2 proceedings on the Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill at its meeting on Tuesday 4 November. Proceedings have continued through subsequent meetings on Tuesday 11 November and Tuesday 18 November, the latter of which included a continuation of proceedings in the evening between 6pm and 9pm.

3. In total, there have been in the region of 300 amendments lodged to the Bill at Stage 2. Debates so far have been extensive and thorough and many of the amendments lodged have been subject to division. This has meant progress has been slower than initially anticipated.

4. For the Committee to be confident of completing Stage 2 proceedings by the end of November, to then allow it to progress with other time sensitive items of business in December, a further continuation of proceedings may be necessary in the evening on Tuesday 25 November.

5. It is therefore proposed that the Committee makes arrangements to continue its meeting on 25 November between 6pm and 8pm if this is deemed necessary to allow the Committee to complete Stage 2 proceedings on the Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill on that day.

Timings proposed for meeting

6. Parliamentary business as currently agreed would mean that the Committee is seeking approval to meet during Members' Business, immediately after Decision Time which is currently scheduled at 5pm on Tuesday 25 November.

Decision

7. The Bureau is invited to consider the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee's request and to recommend to the Parliament that the Committee be given

permission to meet, if necessary, at the same time as a meeting of the Parliament during Members' Business on Tuesday 25 November.

Committee clerking team
November 2025