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

Rural Affairs and Islands Committee

Introduction

1. The Parliamentary Bureau is invited to consider a request from the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee to meet at the same time as plenary proceedings after decision time on Wednesday 3 December. The purpose of this meeting is to continue stage 2 proceedings on the Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill.

Background to Request

2. The Committee scheduled three meetings – 19 and 26 November and 3 December – to consider the Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill at stage 2. After the second meeting on 26 November, however, the Committee agreed it could not conclude its consideration within this timescale. This is partly due to the large number of amendments lodged and partly due to two affirmative SSIs in key policy areas which the Committee wanted to scrutinise in some detail and which had to be considered at these meetings.

3. As a result, the Committee agreed to request to meet at the same time as the parliament after decision time on Wednesday 3 December. The Committee hopes it will be able to complete stage 2 proceedings at this meeting.

Timings proposed for meeting

4. In terms of Chamber business, the timings above would mean that the Committee is seeking approval to meet during members' business on Wednesday 3 December.

Decision

5. The Bureau is invited to consider the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee's request and to recommend to the Parliament that the Committee be given permission to meet at the same time as the Chamber after 5.30 on Wednesday 3 December.

Rural Affairs and Islands Committee clerking team
November 2025