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 NZET Committee to potentially meet at the same time as plenary proceedings on Wednesday 25 February. The meeting would start at 1pm and could finish as late as 3pm. The purpose of this meeting would be to complete consideration of a draft report on the draft Climate Change Plan.

Background to Request

2. The Climate Change Plan (CCP) is a strategy document which outlines how the Scottish Government intends to meet carbon emissions reduction targets across all portfolio areas and sectors of the economy. A draft CCP (covering the period 2026-40) was laid on 6 November for a period of 120 days, which ends of 5 March.

3. The Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee is leading a cross-committee effort to scrutinise the draft Plan. Its final evidence session is on 10 February, when it hears from the Committee will hear from the Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Energy. The Committee will then consider a draft report on 24 February. This will be a substantial document, drawing together evidence gathered over several months by the NZET Committee and other committees, alongside a large number of written submissions and information and views gathered from public engagement.

4. The report must be ready in time for a debate expected in the week commencing 2 March. Whilst the Committee has sought to “clear the decks” as much as possible to ensure the report is the only substantive item for 24 February, there is a strong possibility the Committee will not be able to fully agree the report in one sitting and will require a second meeting that week to sign it off. If a second meeting is required, the Committee will be mindful of seeking to conclude the meeting by 2pm so as to avoid meeting during Chamber business, but as a precaution, is requesting discretion to meet until 3pm if necessary.

Timings proposed for meeting

5. In terms of Chamber business, this would coincide with Portfolio Questions until around 2.50 pm and the very start of any Business scheduled to take place following Portfolio Questions. If the Bureau were minded to accept this request, it might wish to consider requesting that Committee members do not enter their names into the draw for Portfolio Questions that day.

Decision

6. The Bureau is invited to consider the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee's request to meet at a time that might clash with Chamber business, between 2 and 3pm on Wednesday 25 February, if necessary.

Committee clerking team
February 2026