

Parliamentary Bureau – Correspondence

Response from SPPA Committee

Introduction

1. At its meeting on 24 February 2026, the Bureau agreed to refer the Freedom of Information Reform (Scotland) Bill back to the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee for consideration at Stage 2.
2. On 24 February 2026, the Convener of the SPPA Committee wrote to the Presiding Officer in her capacity as Chair of the Parliamentary Bureau. The response is provided at Annexe A.
3. The response sets out that, in line with Parliament's Standing Orders which set out the minimum period that must pass between the stages of bills, the Committee would not be in a position to consider the Bill at Stage 2 before its meeting on 12 March.

Recommendation

4. A letter from the SPPA Committee is attached at Annexe A. Business Managers are invited to note the response.

Letter from the Parliamentary Bureau to NZET Committee

Introduction

5. At its meeting on 10 February 2026, the Bureau referred the Ecocide (Scotland) Bill back to the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee for consideration at Stage 2.
6. On 18 February 2026, the Convener of the NZET Committee and, separately, the Member in Charge of the Bill, Monica Lennon wrote to the Presiding Officer. The Parliamentary Bureau considered the correspondence at its meeting on 24 February. It agreed to write to the NZET Committee to advise of its decision.
7. Clerks have drafted a letter to the NZET Committee which will be copied to the Member in Charge for information. The draft letter is provided at Annexe B.

Recommendation

8. Business Managers are invited to agree the draft correspondence provided at Annexe B.

Parliamentary Business Team

February 2026

Annexe A – Letter from the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

Alison Johnstone MSP
Presiding Officer

24 February 2026

Dear Presiding Officer,

Freedom of Information Reform (Scotland) Bill

Further to the Parliament's decision to agree to the general principles of the Freedom of Information Reform (Scotland) Bill, the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee now anticipates that the Bill will be referred back to it for consideration at Stage 2.

To assist the Committee in planning its approach to Stage 2, we have asked Katy Clark MSP if she could confirm her responses to the recommendations set out in the Committee's Stage 1 report on the Bill and how she would intend to approach the development of any amendments you would intend to lodge for consideration at Stage 2. In line with the Parliament's Standing Orders which set out the minimum period that must pass between the stages of bills, you may wish to note that the Committee would not be in a position to consider the Bill at Stage 2 before its meeting on 12 March.

I have written to Katy Clark MSP in similar terms and confirmed to her that I would also be writing to you as Chair of the Parliamentary Bureau.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Whitfield MSP Convener

Annexe B – Draft letter from the Parliamentary Bureau to the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee

Edward Mountain MSP
Convener
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee

X February 2026

Dear Convener,

Ecocide (Scotland) Bill

Thank you for your letter dated 18 February in which you set out your Committee's views on the Ecocide (Scotland) Bill following the Parliament's agreement to the Bill's general principles at Stage 1, and the Bureau's decision on 10 February 2026 to refer the Bill back to the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee for consideration at Stage 2.

The Parliamentary Bureau considered the Committee's correspondence at its meeting on 24 February. It also considered a letter dated 18 February received from the Member in Charge of the Bill, Monica Lennon MSP, regarding potential options for how the Bill could progress in the remainder of the parliamentary session.

The Bureau noted the challenges that the Committee identifies in its correspondence including the pressures of its current workload, the limited time remaining in the parliamentary session and the risk of passing rushed legislation.

The Bureau considered the other options for consideration of the Bill at Stage 2 under Standing Orders and agreed not to propose an alternative approach to the consideration of the Bill at Stage 2. In taking this decision, the Bureau was cognisant of the pressures on the workload of committees and the Chamber in the short period remaining this session.

The Bureau also noted the Committee's intention to reflect, in its legacy report, on potential future approaches to legislation in this area, and the change in the deadline for introducing Members' Bills in Session 7.

This letter has also been copied to the Member in Charge for her information.

Yours sincerely,

The Rt Hon Alison Johnstone MSP

Cc Monica Lennon MSP

