Parliamentary Bureau – Parliamentary consideration of the Visitor Levy (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill

Background

Introduction

1. This paper invites Business Managers to consider the arrangements for the consideration of the Visitor Levy (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill at Stage 2.

2. The Visitor Levy (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill was introduced on 6 January 2026. The Stage 1 Debate on the Bill took place on 19 February 2026 and the Parliament agreed to the general principles of the Bill.

3. At its meeting on 24 February, the Bureau agreed to refer the Bill back to the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee for consideration at Stage 2

Discussion

4. The Committee agreed to consider Stage 2 amendments at its meeting on Tuesday 3 March. However, Rule 9.5.3A of Standing Orders requires that a minimum period of 12 sitting days must elapse between the day on which Stage 1 is completed and the day on which Stage 2 starts. That period has not elapsed as Stage 1 was completed on 19 February and the Stage 2 was scheduled for today.

5. The Committee discussed its approach to this situation at its meeting this morning. It has requested that Standing Orders Rule 9.5.3A be suspended to allow it to meet on Wednesday 4 March to consider amendments at Stage 2. A draft motion is included at annexe for the Bureau's consideration.

6. Depending on the date on which the Committee concludes Stage 2 consideration of amendments, a further paper may be brought to the Bureau for its consideration in relation to the timing between Stage 2 and Stage 3. Under Rule 9.5.3B, the minimum period that must elapse between the day on which Stage 2 is completed and the day on which Stage 3 starts is 10 sitting days

Recommendation

7. Business managers are invited to agree that the motion attached at Annexe be lodged.

Parliamentary Business Team
March 2026

Annexe – Draft Parliamentary Bureau motion on the Visitor Levy (amendment) Scotland) Bill:

Short Title: Suspension of Standing Orders

Graeme Dey on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: Suspension of Standing Orders—That the Parliament agrees that, for the purposes of consideration of the Visitor Levy (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill, Rule 9.5.3A of Standing Orders is suspended.