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

Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee

Introduction

1. The Parliamentary Bureau is invited to consider a request from the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee to meet at the same time as plenary proceedings on Wednesday 4 March, after Portfolio Questions and before Decision Time, and after Decision Time during Members' Business. The purpose of this meeting is to consider the Visitor Levy (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill at Stage 2.

Background to Request

2. The Visitor Levy (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill was introduced on 6 January 2026. The Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee was designated as the lead committee for scrutiny of the Bill at Stage 1 and reported on 11 February 2026. The Stage 1 debate took place on 19 February.

3. The Bureau referred the Bill back to the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee for consideration at Stage 2 on 24 February. The Committee intended to consider the Bill at Stage 2 on 3 March, but 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. As that period has not elapsed, the Committee did not initiate Stage 2 proceedings today and a separate paper seeks the Bureau's agreement to lodge a motion suspending Standing Orders Rule 9.5.3A.

4. Groupings were published on 26 February and there are 10 separate groupings covering 31 amendments.

Timings proposed for meeting

5. In terms of Chamber business, the timings above would mean that the Committee is seeking approval to meet during the two Liberal Democrat Debates scheduled on Education and on Transport and during Members Business (Jackie Dunbar: Banking Charges for Charities and Not-for-profit Organisations) following Decision Time at 17:10.

Decision

6. The Bureau is invited to consider the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee's request and to recommend to the Parliament that the Committee be given permission to meet at the same time as the Chamber on Wednesday 4 March:
    - after Portfolio Questions and before Decision Time; and
    - after Decision Time, during Members' Business.

Parliamentary Business Team

March 2026