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

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee

Introduction

1. The Parliamentary Bureau is invited to consider a request from the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee to meet at the same time as plenary proceedings on Tuesday 24 March.

Background to request

2. The Committee had hoped that it would have been able to conclude its longer meetings before the final week of the Session, and any required meeting on 24 March could have been before the plenary meeting started.

3. However, the Committee is anticipating a late update from the Scottish Government in relation to scrutiny arrangements for UK SIs which make provision in devolved competence.

4. As such, the Committee needs to meet on the 24 March to consider this, and other (shorter) items of business (subordinate legislation, and other final reports). While it will endeavor to keep its meeting brief, it would not want to unnecessarily curtail its consideration of a possible new arrangement to consider UK SIs, which would have wider Parliamentary implications.

5. It is therefore seeking permission to meet at the same time as plenary proceedings, in case there is any overlap (given the expected plenary start time that day of 10am), to ensure that it does not have to curtail its meeting.

Current committee membership

6. The current membership of the committee is as follows:

- Stuart McMillan (Convener)
- Bill Kidd (Deputy Convener)
- Jeremy Balfour
- Katy Clark
- Roz McCall

Decision

7. The Bureau is invited to decide whether to recommend to the Parliament that the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee be given permission to meet at the same time as the Parliament on Tuesday 24 March.

8. A draft motion is set out below—

S#M-####: Committee Meeting Times—That the Parliament agrees, under Rule 12.3.3B of Standing Orders, that the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee

can meet, if necessary, at the same time as a meeting of the Parliament between 9.00am and 1pm on Tuesday 24 March 2026.

Delegated Powers and Law Reform clerking team
March 2026

Education, Children and Young People Committee

Introduction

9. The Parliamentary Bureau is invited to consider a request from the Education, Children and Young People Committee to meet at the same time as plenary proceedings on Tuesday 24 March, between 9am and 1pm.

Background to request

10. The Committee has an ongoing interest in the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI). It took evidence from UHI as part of its 2026/27 pre-budget scrutiny and has subsequently received correspondence regarding issues at UHI, from Trade Unions and the Public Audit Committee (PAC), following its own work on UHI Perth.

11. Trade Unions have written to the Committee to express concern about the content of UHI's transformation plan. PAC also highlighted issues with the timing of UHI's consultation on its proposed new operating model, which PAC suggested was likely to inhibit the ability of the Parliament and its Committees to contribute.

12. During its meeting on 24 March, the Committee intends to build on its pre-budget scrutiny work, and to also take evidence on the UHI transformation plan and proposed new operating model.

13. Given the heavy legislative programme, and the need for the Bureau to maximise the time available for Chamber, the Committee agreed to move its final meeting of the session from Wednesday 25 March, to Tuesday 24 March, recognising that ECYPC was the only Committee due to meet on Wednesday 25 March.

14. The Committee intends to take evidence from two panels at this meeting. It is therefore seeking permission to meet at the same time as plenary proceedings, in case there is any overlap, to ensure that it does not have to curtail its evidence gathering that day.

Current committee membership

15. The current membership of the committee is as follows:

- Douglas Ross (Convener)
- Jackie Dunbar (Deputy Convener)
- George Adam
- Miles Briggs
- Ross Greer

- Bill Kidd
- John Mason
- Paul McLennan
- Paul O'Kane
- Willie Rennie

Decision

16. The Bureau is invited to decide whether to recommend to the Parliament that the Education, Children and Young People Committee be given permission to meet at the same time as the Parliament between 9am and 1pm on Tuesday 24 March.

17. A draft motion is set out below—

S#M-####: Committee Meeting Times—That the Parliament agrees, under Rule 12.3.3B of Standing Orders, that the Education, Children and Young People Committee can meet, if necessary, at the same time as a meeting of the Parliament between 9.00am and 1pm on Tuesday 24 March 2026.

Education, Children and Young People Committee clerking team
March 2026

Net Zero Energy and Transport Committee

Introduction

1. The Parliamentary Bureau is invited to consider a request from the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee to meet at the same time as plenary proceedings on Tuesday 24 March, between 9am and 12 noon.

Background to request

2. The Committee are seeking to meet to discuss and agree their legacy report.

3. The Committee's recent time has largely been taken up by consideration of the draft Climate Change Plan. Since concluding that work on 3 March, the Committee has also considered an LCM on the UK Railways Bill, evidence with Ferguson Marine Port Glasgow, and several items of secondary legislation.

4. The Committee will first consider their legacy report on 17 March and expect to require one further meeting to agree and sign it off.

Committee membership

5. The current membership of the Committee is as follows:

- Edward Mountain (Convener)
- Michael Matheson (Deputy Convener)
- Bob Doris
- Monica Lennon
- Douglas Lumsden

- Mark Ruskell
- Kevin Stewart

Decision

6. The Bureau is invited to decide whether to recommend to the Parliament that the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee be given permission to meet at the same time as the Parliament between 9am and 12 noon on Tuesday 24 March.

7. A draft motion is set out below—

S#M-####: Committee Meeting Times—That the Parliament agrees, under Rule 12.3.3B of Standing Orders, that the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee can meet, if necessary, at the same time as a meeting of the Parliament between 9.00am and 12 noon on Tuesday 24 March 2026.

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee clerking team
March 2026

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 Tuesday 24 March 2026. The purpose of this meeting is to consider the Non-Domestic Rates (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2026 (SSI 2026/135).

Background to request

2. The Scottish Government laid the instrument on 10 March 2026. A letter has been sent to the Presiding Officer which explains the timing of laying the instrument (which breaches the Section 28(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 rule that instruments must be laid 28 days before they come into force). The letter explains:

> "On 27 January 2026 the Chancellor announced a 15% relief in 2026-27 and a rates freeze in 2027-28 and 2028-29 for pubs and music venues in England. Scottish Ministers had previously committed to passing on any consequentials arising from new business rates support measures to businesses in Scotland.
>
> On 12 February 2026, at Stage 1 of the Budget Bill, the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government announced that the Scottish Government would pass on in full the expected additional consequential funding from the Chancellor's 27 January announcement, with 25% additional relief for three years for eligible licensed hospitality and music venues liable for Basic or Intermediate Property Rate, capped at £110,000 per ratepayer per year. This takes the total relief for eligible licensed hospitality premises and music venues to 40% for the next three years, capped at £110,000 per business per year; and a Revaluation Transitional Relief specifically for self-catering

capping increases in gross rates liabilities at 15% year-on-year of the next three years for eligible premises.

The Non-Domestic Rates (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2026 provide for these new measures."

3. The instrument has been referred to the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee to consider. The Committee is seeking permission to meet on the morning of 24 March to give the Committee flexibility over how and when it can consider the instrument.

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.

Decision

5. 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 from 09:30 – 13:00 on the morning of 24 March 2026.

6. A draft motion is set out below—

S#M-####: Committee Meeting Times—That the Parliament agrees, under Rule 12.3.3B of Standing Orders, that the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee can meet, if necessary, at the same time as a meeting of the Parliament between 9.30am and 1pm on Tuesday 24 March 2026.

Committee clerking team
March 2026