

## Parliamentary Bureau – Correspondence

### Letter from Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

#### Introduction

1. On 11 March 2026, the Convener of the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee wrote to the Presiding Officer in her capacity as Chair of the Parliamentary Bureau. The correspondence is provided at Annexe A.
2. The correspondence sets out that, at its meeting on 5 March, the SPPA Committee considered changing the current requirement in Standing Orders for all consultation responses on a proposal for a members' bill to be provided to accompany the final proposal.
3. Following consideration, the Committee do not propose to recommend to the Parliament changing the current rules for all consultation responses on a proposal for a members' bill to be provided to accompany the final proposal.

#### Recommendation

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

Parliamentary Business Team

March 2026

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

### **Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee**

Alison Johnstone MSP  
Presiding Officer

**11 March 2026**

Dear Presiding Officer,

### **Miscellaneous and minor Standing Order rule changes**

At its meeting on 5 March, the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee returned to consideration of changing the current requirement in Standing Orders for all consultation responses on a proposal for a members' bill to be provided to accompany the final proposal.

The Committee was grateful for the information provided by the Non-Government Bills Unit on whether the change in approach would introduce scope for a more subjective assessment by a member of the treatment and value of a submission to their consultation on the proposal for a members bill, potentially resulting in some evidence not being available for others to scrutinise and on the saving in time and effort this proposed change would deliver for Members and their staff processing these responses.

As a Committee, we recognise the potential cost and time saving in changing the current approach however we consider consistency in the handling of all consultation responses is important to ensure there is no subjectivity applied to the value and treatment of submissions.

We therefore do not propose to recommend to Parliament changing the current rules for all consultation responses on a proposal for a members' bill to be provided to accompany the final proposal.

We hope that the change we have recommended to Parliament to bring forward the introduction date for members' bills will bring substantial benefits to the overall members' bill process in the next parliamentary session.

Yours sincerely,

**Martin Whitfield MSP, Convener**