

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

Introduction

1. The Parliamentary Bureau is invited to consider a request from the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee to meet at the same time as plenary proceedings on Wednesday 21 February, most likely after decision time when Members Business is taking place. The purpose of this meeting is to complete stage 2 proceedings on the Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Bill.

Background to request

2. The Committee is currently considering the Bill at stage 2.
3. The Committee was due to consider stage 2 on 24 January and 7 February. Due to the travel disruption as a result of Storm Jocelyn, however, stage 2 proceedings were deferred from the 24 January meeting. The Committee will now consider stage 2 over 7 February and 21 February.
4. The Committee is also taking evidence on the Agriculture and Rural Communities (Scotland) Bill from the Cabinet Secretary for RALRI on 21 February. At this stage, it is not possible to anticipate whether the Committee will be able to complete stage 2 proceedings as well as take evidence from the Cabinet Secretary at this meeting.
5. The Committee requests the Bureau's agreement to hold an additional meeting on Wednesday 21 February, if required, to complete stage 2 on that date. The Committee has agreed it wishes to make this request in order to complete stage 2 as soon as possible, as well as keep to the stage 1 timetable for the Agriculture and Rural Communities (Scotland) Bill.

Timings proposed for meeting

6. In terms of Chamber business, the timings above would mean that the Committee is seeking approval to meet after decision time. The exact time will depend on the number of amendments remaining to be considered. The Committee does not wish to meet earlier in the afternoon as the scheduled portfolio for portfolio questions is RALRI, followed by Liberal Democrat Party business. The Committee's deputy convener is from the Liberal Democrat Party.

Decision

7. The Bureau is invited to consider the Rural Affairs and Islands 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 21 February.