

PARLIAMENTARY BUREAU

LEGISLATIVE CONSENT MEMORANDUM - ENERGY PRICES BILL (UK LEGISLATION)

Introduction

1. Under Rule 9B.3.5, the Parliamentary Bureau is required to refer any legislative consent memorandum (LCM) that has been lodged with the Parliament to the committee within whose remit the subject matter of the relevant provision falls.

Energy Prices Bill

2. The Energy Prices Bill was introduced in the House of Commons on 12 October 2022. The LCM was lodged by Michael Matheson, Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport, on 20 October 2022.

3. The UK Government has set out the principal aim of the Bill as being to make provisions for controlling energy prices, to encourage the efficient use and supply of energy; and for other purposes connected to the energy crisis.

4. The LCM indicates that the Scottish Government intends to lodge a motion seeking the Scottish Parliament's consent to the UK Parliament legislating on devolved matters in this Bill.

Westminster timetable

5. The Bill is being treated as emergency legislation and completed all its House of Commons stages on 17 October 2022. It received its second reading in the House of Lords on 19 October 2022 and is expected to complete its final amending stage on Tuesday 25 October, with Royal Assent expected on 26 October.

6. As the Bill relates to energy, it falls within the remit of the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee. With the LCM having been lodged on Thursday 20 October, and the final amending stage expected on Tuesday 25 October, the only date on which the committee could have considered this is Tuesday 25 October. As well as being the same day as the final amending stage at Westminster, this is the same day as a debate in the Chamber on a legislative consent motion for the Bill is expected to be scheduled. It is not considered possible for the committee to consider and report on the LCM in that timescale. The Convener of the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee has been consulted and, in the circumstances, would be content with the suspension of Standing Orders so that a lead committee report was not required in this case. A draft motion to suspend Rule 9B.3.5 is therefore set out below. If agreed to, the committee would not consider or report on the Bill.

7. In order for the Parliament's views to be provided to the UK Parliament prior to the conclusion of the final amending stage, Business Managers may wish to note that it is suggested the motion on this LCM is considered after Topical Questions with the question on the motion being put at the conclusion of debate on the motion rather than at Decision Time.

Recommendation

8. The Bureau is invited to consider recommending to the Parliament by motion that Rule 9B.3.5 be suspended in relation to the LCM on the Energy Prices Bill.

9. A draft motion is provided below.

Parliamentary Business Team
October 2022

Draft Parliamentary Bureau motion on the Energy Prices Bill (UK Legislation):

Suspension of Rule 9B.3.5 requiring designation of lead committee – That the Parliament agrees that, for the purposes of the legislative consent memorandum on the Energy Prices Bill (UK Legislation), Rule 9B.3.5 is suspended.