

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

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 Thursday 3 October, from 12.55pm until approximately 3pm. The purpose of this meeting would be to agree its Stage 1 report on the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Bill.
2. The Bureau is considering the timetabling of the Bill as a separate agenda item and a Bureau motion on timetabling will need to be agreed by the Parliament.

Background to Request

3. The Committee has been conducting Stage 1 scrutiny of the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Bill, which is likely to proceed through the Parliament on an expedited timetable (though that timetable has still to be agreed). The proposal to meet on Thursday 3 October is based on the timetable for Stage 1 consideration that the Committee has requested.
4. If the Committee's preferred timetable is agreed to, the Committee has only 4 meetings at which to consider the Bill. The Committee believes that, given the importance of this policy area and high interest from stakeholders, it must use 3 of these meetings to take evidence on the Bill. This is already significantly less evidence than a typical Stage 1 inquiry.
5. This results in only one meeting being available to agree a Stage 1 report. While this may be possible, the Committee is keen to ensure that the report is thorough and meaningful. It therefore considers it prudent to seek extra time in which to continue consideration of the report if it cannot be agreed during the Committee's scheduled meeting on Tuesday 1 October.

Timings proposed for meeting

6. In terms of Chamber business, the timings above would mean that the Committee is seeking approval to meet during Members Business, which begins after FMQs. Then continuing over lunch and into the afternoon during Portfolio Questions (and, if relevant, any Parliamentary Business Motions), which starts at 2.30pm. The Committee's hope is that the meeting would finish in time for the business following Portfolio Questions.

Decision

7. As noted above, the Parliament has yet to agree the timetable for this Bill. The Bureau is therefore invited to consider the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee's request, subject to the Parliament's agreement to the timetable for the consideration of the Bill, to recommend to the Parliament that the Committee

be given permission to meet at the same time as the Chamber between 12:50pm and (approximately) 3pm on Thursday 3 October.

Parliamentary Business Team
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