

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

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:
 - a. Tuesday 27 May, between approximately 14:20 and close of business;
 - b. Wednesday 28 May, between 14:00 and close of business; and
 - c. Thursday 29 May, between 14:00 and close of business.

Background to request

2. The Housing (Scotland) Bill completed Stage 1 on 28 November 2024. The Bill was referred for Stage 2 to two Committees: Social Justice and Social Security (SJSS) and the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee. The SJSS Committee considered the Bill at meetings on 20 and 27 March. Due to unforeseen circumstances at both these meetings, that Committee also considered the Bill on 24 April 2025.
3. The Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee was due to commence its consideration of the Bill at Stage 2 on 29 April. It had allocated 5 meetings to consideration of the Bill and was due to start other business on 3 June.
4. The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice wrote to the Committee requesting it consider postponing its first meeting on the Bill at Stage 2 until 6 May due to the delays at the SJSS Committee and to avoid overlap. The Committee considered this request and agreed at its meeting on 22 April.
5. So far it has met to take Stage 2 on 6 May, 13 May, 14 May (additional evening meeting) and 20 May.
6. There are over 500 amendments in 30 groupings (with an additional one added after Day 1 to accommodate new amendments). To date the Committee has completed 14 debates and disposed of 296 amendments in about 13.5 hours.
7. The Committee's preference would be to use its regular meeting in the morning of Tuesday 27 May (for up to 4 hours), plus the additional meetings in the afternoon of that day, and on Wednesday 28 and Thursday 29 May, in order to complete Stage 2 ahead of the existing deadline. However, recognising that this may still not be enough time to complete Stage 2, the Committee intends to seek an extension to that deadline so it can, if need be, also meet to complete Stage 2 in the morning of Tuesday 3 June.

8. It should be noted that, although the additional meetings are being requested primarily to take Stage 2 proceedings, it is possible one of them may also be used for consideration of negative instruments that have been referred to the Committee (depending on the availability of the relevant Minister).

Timings proposed for meeting

9. The timings above would mean that the Committee would meet during
 - a. Scottish Government Debate: Growing Community Owned Energy in Scotland (Tuesday 27 May)
 - b. Scottish Liberal Democrats Debate (Wednesday 28 May); and
 - c. Ministerial Statements on Galloway and Ayrshire National Park Proposal; NHS Grampian; and Responding to RAAC in the Public Sector Across Scotland (Thursday 29 May).
10. The Committee's meetings would finish, or be suspended, in time for Decision Time to ensure that Committee members can still vote. The Committee's meeting would also be suspended – if the meeting has not finished – in order that the Committee Members can attend the statement on RAAC.

Current committee membership

11. The current membership of the committee is as follows:
 - Ariane Burgess MSP (Convener)
 - Willie Coffey MSP (Deputy Convener)
 - Meghan Gallacher MSP
 - Mark Griffin MSP
 - Fulton MacGregor MSP
 - Emma Roddick MSP
 - Alexander Stewart MSP
12. The following Members have lodged amendments to the Bill which are still to be disposed of—
 - Rachael Hamilton MSP
 - Bob Doris MSP
 - Daniel Johnson MSP
 - Pam Gosal MSP
 - Katy Clark MSP
 - Sarah Boyack MSP
 - Paul Sweeney MSP
 - Evelyn Tweed MSP
 - Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP
 - Jamie Halcro Johnson MSP
 - Graham Simpson MSP
 - Edward Mountain MSP
 - Jeremy Balfour MSP

- Ross Greer MSP
- Willie Rennie MSP
- Maggie Chapman MSP
- Murdo Fraser MSP
- Ben Macpherson MSP

Decision

13. The Bureau is invited to decide whether to recommend to the Parliament that the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee be given permission to meet at the same time as the Parliament on the dates and times provided above.
14. A draft motion is set out in the Annexe.

Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee clerking team
May 2025

Annexe: Draft Bureau motion

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 on Tuesday 27 May, between approximately 14:20 and close of business; Wednesday 28 May, between 14:00 and close of business; and Thursday 29 May, between 14:00 and close of business.