

Submission from Natalie Don MSP

I believe that the introduction of the proxy voting within the current parameters of the eligibility criteria is a welcome initial step.

I would like to suggest that the committee consider extending the eligibility criteria to allow Members to provide a proxy vote for parental leave to include caring for an unwell dependant.

Whilst I appreciate that the hybrid system allows members to vote remotely, I know from experience that trying to vote remotely whilst simultaneously trying to care for your unwell child is extremely difficult. Like most workplaces parental leave is available to care for unwell children or dependants. I would therefore suggest that the eligibility criteria is extended to allow Members with dependants to appoint a proxy if their dependant requires care due to illness/emergency.

Thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to provide feedback.