



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Minute of Parliamentary Bureau meeting 19 December
2022 at 09:00 am
MS Teams

Present:

- Alison Johnstone (Chair)
- Liam McArthur
- George Adam
- Alexander Burnett
- Gillian Mackay
- Neil Bibby

Also attended:

- Gordon MacDonald

Officials present:

- David McGill
- Tracey White
- Catherine Fergusson
- Jo Hardy
- Mark Brough
- Rebecca Carradice
- Jason Nairn
- Jennifer Bell
- Callum Thomson
- Irene Fleming
- Gail Grant
- Samantha Currie

Apologies:

- Annabelle Ewing

Business Programme

1. The Bureau met to consider the scheduling of Stage 3 consideration of the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill. Business Managers discussed the draft timings and options for scheduling business that would allow Members who wished to contribute to debates to do so.
2. Neil Bibby requested that sufficient time be afforded to Members to take stock and reflect on the Stage 3 amendments before the Stage 3 Debate rather than proceeding directly from the disposal of the remaining amendments to the debate on Wednesday.
3. Alexander Burnett requested that the following statement be included in the minute: "This is perhaps the most blatant attempt to restrict scrutiny of the GRR Bill we have seen yet. This was avoidable. We didn't need to rush through Stage 2, which could have dealt with some of these amendments. The answer now is not to simply cut short the debate on each amendment. There are reports that non-Committee members will be restricted in questioning the witnesses today and people are rightly questioning why a government-backing witness is being granted another chance to give evidence when many others have been denied that chance. The only reasonable solution is to give more time to committee to scrutinise this bill, and then schedule several days of consideration for Stage 3 amendments, even if that means running into 2023."
4. The Bureau agreed to recommend to the Parliament that Stage 3 proceedings be scheduled over 20 and 21 December.
5. Business Managers agreed to consider a timetabling motion for the Bill in due course.

Catherine Fergusson
Clerk to the Parliamentary Bureau
19 December 2022