

## PARLIAMENTARY BUREAU

### REFERRAL OF A BILL AT STAGE 1: MINERS' STRIKE (PARDONS) (SCOTLAND) BILL

#### Introduction

1. The Miners' Strike (Pardons) (Scotland) Bill was introduced in the Parliament on 27 October 2021 by the Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Veterans, Keith Brown MSP.

#### Discussion

2. The Miners' Strike (Pardons) (Scotland) Bill makes provision to automatically pardon miners convicted of certain offences during the 1984-85 miners' strike.
3. The Bill falls within the remit of the following committees:

Equalities, Human Rights and  
Civil Justice

The remit of the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee includes to consider and report on human rights, and on matters relating to civil justice within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Veterans. The Bill is related to human rights, in particular, the freedom of assembly, protected by the ECHR. As such, the remit of this Committee is engaged.

Criminal Justice

The remit of the Criminal Justice Committee includes to consider and report on matters relating to criminal justice falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Veterans. The Bill engages this remit by pardoning certain criminal offences.

4. It is understood that the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee has the main interest in this Bill.

#### Recommendation

5. It is suggested that the Bureau recommends to the Parliament that the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee be designated as the lead committee. We are not aware of any desire on the part of any other committee to be designated as a secondary committee. However, the lack of a formal designation does not prevent any committee from considering the Bill if it so wishes.

**Parliamentary Business Team**  
**November 2021**

## **DRAFT MOTION**

**Designation of Lead Committee:** That the Parliament agrees that the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the Miners' Strike (Pardons) (Scotland) Bill at stage 1.