

PARLIAMENTARY BUREAU

PORTFOLIO QUESTIONS ROTA

1. Business Managers are invited to consider an adjustment to the Portfolio Questions Rota and to note some changes to matters falling within some portfolios in light of adjustments that the First Minister has made to matters falling within the Deputy First Minister's non-Covid responsibilities.

Cycle of Portfolio Questions

2. In light of John Swinney taking on responsibility for the Finance and Economy Portfolio for the duration of Kate Forbes' maternity leave, the Bureau is invited to consider making an adjustment to the Portfolio Questions to schedule questions on Covid Recovery and Parliamentary Business and on Finance and Economy on the same day.

3. In considering this adjustment, Business Managers will wish to note that, due to the deadlines for entering names into the draw and lodging questions, the current rota would need to apply for the first two weeks of business in September.

4. The tables below set out both the current and proposed rotas for Portfolio Questions, should the Bureau agree to this change.

Table 1: Current Portfolio Questions rota

Week One	Covid Recovery and Parliamentary Business
	Net Zero, Energy and Transport
	Rural Affairs and Islands
Week Two	Health and Social Care
	Social Justice, Housing and Local Government
	Constitution, External Affairs and Culture
Week Three	Justice and Veterans
	Finance and Economy
	Education and Skills

Table 2: Proposed Portfolio Questions rota

Week One	Covid Recovery and Parliamentary Business
	Finance and Economy
	Net Zero, Energy and Transport
Week Two	Rural Affairs and Islands
	Health and Social Care
	Social Justice, Housing and Local Government
Week Three	Constitution, External Affairs and Culture
	Justice and Veterans
	Education and Skills

5. Business Managers may wish to note that implementing this change would mean that, for the initial three-week period of the new cycle, there would be a change in frequency of questions in three portfolios, as follows.

- Finance and Economy questions would fall in both the week commencing 12 September and 19 September
- Rural Affairs and the Islands in week commencing 26 September, rather than week commencing 19 September
- Constitution, External Affairs and Culture in week commencing 3 October, rather than week commencing 26 September.

6. The table below sets out the how the rota of Portfolio Questions would look up to October recess, based on the new rota beginning in week commencing 19 September.

	Wednesday 1	Wednesday 2	Thursday
w/c 5 Sept	Health and Social Care	Social Justice, Housing and Local Government	Constitution, External Affairs and Culture
w/c 12 Sept	Justice and Veterans	Finance and Economy	Education and Skills
w/c 19 Sept	Covid Recovery and Parliamentary Business	Finance and Economy	Net Zero, Energy and Transport
w/c 26 Sept	Rural Affairs and Islands	Health and Social Care	Social Justice, Housing and Local Government
w/c 3 Oct	Constitution, External Affairs and Culture	Justice and Veterans	Education and Skills

Matters falling within portfolios

7. The First Minister has made a number of adjustments to the matters for which John Swinney is responsible in his capacity as Deputy First Minister. As a result of these adjustments, questions on the following matters will now be admissible within the portfolios indicated:

- Cross-government co-ordination on UN treaty incorporation will now be admissible in the Education and Skills portfolio
- The Local Government Review and democratic renewal will now be admissible in the Social Justice and Social Security Portfolio
- Resilience will now be admissible in the Justice and Law Officers portfolio.

8. Business Managers may also wish to note that the First Minister has taken direct responsibility for cross-government delivery of 'The Promise' to care experienced young people.

**Parliamentary Business Team
August 2022**