

PARLIAMENTARY BUREAU

COMMITTEES REQUEST TO MEET AT THE SAME TIME AS THE PARLIAMENT

Introduction

1. The Bureau has previously agreed to a request from three committees (Criminal Justice; Health, Social Care and Sport; Social Justice and Social Security) to meet jointly to consider issues relating to tackling drug deaths and drug harm.
2. The Bureau is asked to consider a request for these committees to meet jointly at the same time as Parliament on the afternoon of Thursday 2 November.

Background to Request

3. The committees had to reschedule an evidence session with the Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy, Elena Whitham MSP, as she could not attend last week's scheduled meeting due to illness.
4. As the committees involved meet on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday it is proving difficult to find time during the normal committee meeting mornings as to do so would mean one of the committees finding additional time within their planned work programmes.
5. The committees wish to reschedule the Minister's evidence session to Thursday 2 November, from 1.00 pm to 2.15 pm. This means the meeting will be held at the same time as Member's Business.
6. The clerks attempted to find a time slot of this evidence that did not coincide with the Chamber sitting, but there were no other viable options.

Decision

7. Business Managers are invited to consider the request and to recommend to the Parliament that the committees be given permission to meet jointly at the same time as the Chamber between 1.00pm and 2.15pm on Thursday 2 November.

Parliamentary Business Team
October 2023