

PARLIAMENTARY BUREAU: COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSTITUTION ON COMMITTEES

Committee membership

1. The Liberal Democrats are seeking to make the following changes to committee membership—
 - Willie Rennie to replace Beatrice Wishart as a member of the Education, Children and Young People Committee
 - Beatrice Wishart to replace Liam McArthur as a member of the Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee.
2. To enable the changes to be made in advance of the relevant committee meetings in the week beginning 30 August, the Bureau is invited to agree to lodge a motion to propose these changes and that the motion be taken on Tuesday 31 August.
3. The Bureau will also recall that the gender balance on committees, and particularly the all-male membership of the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee, was discussed prior to recess and Business Managers undertook to consider options for making changes to committee membership. Business Managers are invited to provide an update on their consideration of this matter.

Substitution on Committees

4. Following confirmation of committee memberships, Business Managers are also invited to consider substitution on committees.
5. Standing Orders provide that a political party represented by 2 or more members of the Parliament may nominate a member of that party to be a substitute (referred to as a “committee substitute”) for the members of that party on a committee. Further provision is made that a member cannot be a committee substitute for more than two committees at the same time.
6. Business Managers are invited to note that a provision enabling greater flexibility in respect of committee substitution was put in place last Session as part of the Parliament’s response to Covid-19. This provision fell at the end of Session 5.
7. Business Managers are invited to consider nominating substitutes for each committee and to note that the Liberal Democrats will be invited to do the same.
8. Prior to confirmation of nominations from all parties, the Scottish National Party has indicated that it would like to appoint two substitutes as follows at the earliest opportunity—
 - Collette Stevenson to be the substitute for the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee
 - Evelyn Tweed to be the substitute for the Social Justice and Social Security Committee.

9. As the temporary rule allowing any member to act as a substitute for their party is no longer in place, Business Managers may wish to consider nominating substitutes for each Committee.

Conclusion

10. The Bureau is invited to consider the above and—

- to propose to the Parliament the changes to Liberal Democrat committee membership
- to provide an update on consideration of gender balance on the SPPA Committee
- to consider nominating committee substitutes
- to propose to the Parliament the two SNP substitutes noted above.

**Parliamentary Business Team
August 2021**