

Urgent questions

A Member may lodge a question before 10.00 am on a sitting day, asking that it be answered that day. These questions should be sent by email, marked as 'urgent questions' and be received by the Chamber Desk before 10.00 am. Members are also asked to provide background information and a reason why they consider the question to be urgent. The Presiding Officer will consider each question using the selection criteria set out below.

Selection criteria: "urgent" questions

In making a selection, the Presiding Officer will consider—

- whether the subject has arisen since the Parliament last sat or there have been significant developments to a subject that has already been discussed;
- whether a question is, in fact, sufficiently urgent;
- duplication of questions already lodged or business to be debated in the chamber in the same week;
- duplication of oral questions answered in the last seven days;
- whether questions on the same issue have been lodged by a number of Members; and
- any other factors that the Presiding Officer considers appropriate.

To be urgent, questions should—

- clearly deal with a specific issue in relation to which there has been a recent development;
- address an issue of national relevance for which the Scottish Government has general responsibility;
- if addressing a local issue, have wider than local significance, e.g. relate to national policy or have an impact on the Scottish economy and have the potential to generate supplementary questions from other Members;
- not address an issue that has not yet been reported but which a Member believes may become urgent or an event that is scheduled but has not yet taken place; and
- be accompanied by a note from the Member providing background information on the question and its urgency to assist the Presiding Officer in making a selection.