

From: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]
Sent: 07 April 2022 09:28
To: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)] <[redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Fireworks and Pyrotechnics Bill - timetabling

Thanks [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]. And sorry for the basic question but who is it that lodges the motion to suspend standing orders?

[redacted – section 38(1)(b)]
[redacted – section 38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)] <[redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 06 April 2022 17:39
To: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)] <[redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)] <[redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)] <[redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)] <[redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)] <[redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)] <[redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)] <[redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Brown JG (Jonathan) (Parliamentary Counsel) <Jonathan.Brown3@gov.scot>; [redacted – section 38(1)(b)] <[redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Fireworks and Pyrotechnics Bill - timetabling

Hi [redacted – section 38(1)(b)],

Yes, MinfPB's office is taking this forward with Ms Regan's office.

While the second option may be seen as the worst, Mr Adam's office is aware of it and I think it would be useful to cover it since one of your earlier emails went up to Ministers on delaying to 10th and both Minister's offices responded on that so you'll probably want to make clear why that is your least favourite option.

On suspension of SOs to allow the debate to take place less than 5 days after publication, Rule 9.6 provides that "3A. The lead committee shall report to the Parliament in time to allow the report to be published not later than the fifth sitting day before any date allocated in a business programme for the Parliament to consider the general principles of the Bill under paragraph 4. The Parliament shall not consider the general principles of the Bill earlier than the fifth sitting day after the lead committee report is published **unless it decides to do so on a motion of any member.**"

It's not for PLU to say whether any motion would be agreed by Parliament. However, the SG has set out the need for this Bill to be through and the lead committee agreed, working to meet the necessary timetable. This is something that can be raised at the meeting.

Thanks,

[redacted – section 38(1)(b)]

[redacted – section 38(1)(b)] | Parliament and Legislation Unit | Cabinet, Parliament and Governance Division | Directorate for Constitution and Cabinet | Scottish Government | Tel: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)] | Mobile: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]

I am currently working from home and can be contacted by email, phone (numbers above) or Teams

From: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)] <[redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: 06 April 2022 16:41

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Subject: RE: Fireworks and Pyrotechnics Bill - timetabling

Thanks [redacted – section 38(1)(b)], that is helpful. I think the meeting would need to take place on Tuesday 19th (or Wednesday 20th absolute latest) – will MfPB take forward organising that with Ms Regan's office?

I think we can strike the second option below off the list as we've agreed that would be worse than the current plan to have no sitting days between the report and debate.

I know Jonathan raised this before, but can you confirm PLU are confident we will be able to suspend standing orders in the way that is intended if we proceed with the current plan?

[redacted – section 38(1)(b)]

[redacted – section 38(1)(b)]

From: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)] <[redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: 06 April 2022 14:01

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Subject: RE: Fireworks and Pyrotechnics Bill - timetabling

No worries [redacted – section 38(1)(b)].

Given that you've confirmed nothing at all can be done for this year's bonfire season unless S3 concludes before summer recess and that Ms Regan made statements to the committee on the necessity of this being through by then, I'd say our options are:

- to stick with the timetable and take the expected criticism at the S1 debate on 3rd May (noting we may also be criticised for doing this during a week many MSPs will be out campaigning);
- to move the debate to Thursday 12th May and then have to suspend SOs to allow the first committee session to take place on Wed 25th May (there would only be 8 sitting days between S1 and S2 rather than the minimal 12);
- to consider if non-Gov party business on Tuesday 10th May can be rescheduled to allow the debate to be held then (SOs would still be breached but there would be 10 sitting days between S1 and S2)

If you'd like to introduce the possible option of not concluding by summer recess (which is obviously open to you) then you'd need to provide a reminder of what commitments/statement have been made publicly and provide good reasons for the SG deciding to change course. I'm not sure how Ministers might respond to that given the risks were set out to Ms Regan before but you may want to do that so that you know you've definitely covered all possible options.

Thanks,

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From: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)] <[redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: 06 April 2022 13:44

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Thanks [redacted – section 38(1)(b)].

Just to be clear – what options is it we are discussing with them? I don't think we have identified any other feasible options other than the no sitting days between the report and debate; unless any have emerged from your discussion with PO? Are you suggesting a complete re-think of the timetable to after summer recess is what should be discussed at this meeting; or that the purpose of this meeting is to identify whether there are any other timetabling options pre-summer recess?

Sorry to be pedantic but we'll need to work up a briefing for our minister in advance of any meeting.

[redacted – section 38(1)(b)]

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From: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)] <[redacted – section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Sent: 06 April 2022 13:25

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Subject: Fireworks and Pyrotechnics Bill - timetabling

Hi all,

I've had my discussion with [redacted – section 38(1)(b)] and Mr Adam's office. To be sure that both Ministers are entirely clear on the options and their risks, we're suggesting a stocktake meeting between the two Ministers and the Bill team (and PLU/MinfPB's office). This will be set up for Ms Regan's return by private office.

In the meantime, since your preference was for 0 sitting days between publication and S1 debate rather than 8 sitting days between S1 and S2, can you continue for the time being on the basis that the debate will take place on 3rd May?

Very happy to have a chat with anyone about this if that would be helpful.

Thanks,

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