

From: [redacted – section 38(1)(b)]
Safer Communities Division
14 April 2022

Minister for Community Safety
Minister for Parliamentary Business

FIREWORKS AND PYROTECHNIC ARTICLES (SCOTLAND) BILL: TIMETABLE

Purpose

1. To outline potential timetabling options for consideration in advance of your meeting on 19 April.

Priority

2. Routine.

Background

3. My email of 4 April set out the challenges with the current timetable, particularly in relation to the revised dates for the stage 1 report being published by the Criminal Justice Committee and the subsequent stage 1 debate. Following approval from the Minister for Community Safety to seek a change to the deadline and debate for stage 1, officials have worked to identify potential alternative timetabling options with the aim of ensuring the Bill passes the required parliamentary stages in advance of summer recess.

4. Securing an alternative timetable has proved very challenging, and we have set out four potential options below for consideration in advance of your meeting.

Criminal Justice Committee

5. Following the discussion at Committee during the Minister for Community Safety's evidence session, which criticised the timetable and perceived lack of time for parliamentary scrutiny, a subsequent discussion between officials and the lead committee clerk has reinforced concerns that members have with the pace at which the Bill is being progressed with an indication that some members have likened it to the Bill stages of the since repealed Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012, which was criticised for being pushed through parliament too quickly and not allowing adequate time for proper parliamentary scrutiny. This discussion also indicated that it is very unlikely that only one day for stage 2 amendments will be sufficient; and therefore, as originally planned, we need to build in time for at least two stage 2 sitting days.

Timetabling Options

6. The Bill team has worked with the Parliament and Legislation Unit to identify potential timetabling options for consideration and these are outlined below.

Option one: Progress with Stage 1 deadline as currently set out

7. [redacted – s29(1)(a)]
8. [redacted – s29(1)(a)]
9. [redacted – s29(1)(a)]

Option two: Seek an earlier publication date of stage 1 report

10. [redacted – s29(1)(a)]

Option three: Move the stage 1 debate to Thursday 12 May

11. [redacted – s29(1)(a)]
12. [redacted – s29(1)(a)]
13. [redacted – s29(1)(a)]

Option four: Revise the overall timetable so parliamentary stages conclude after summer recess

14. [redacted – s29(1)(a)]
15. [redacted – s29(1)(a)]

Recommendation

16. You are invited to note the potential timetabling options for consideration in advance of your meeting on 19 April.

[redacted – section 38(1)(b)]

Safer Communities Division

14 April 2022

Copy List:	For Action	For Comments	For Information		
			Portfolio Interest	Constit Interest	General Awareness
Minister for Community Safety	X				
Minister for Parliamentary Business	X				

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